

Ross Dowson archives – *Vancouver and B.C. correspondence – 1950*

- 01_03 Letter to Fergy, re: Vancouver comrade sending LC subs in from Edmonton; the value of long-time labor militants to the party
- 01_05 Letter to Charley (R.), to a IWA union militant with thanks for a generous M.O.
- 01_20 Letter to Comrades McDonnell, touching base, word of George Faulkner or Comrade Burki?
- 01_22 Letter to the Vancouver Branch, re: NC correspondence delayed by the civic election campaign; the question of an open Sunday not a class question; called for the vote for 18-year olds
- 01_22B Letter to Ellaline, re: a left-wing CCF woman writes to LC; fund drive quotas; our tone on Tito; the branch view on the IWA settlement? Need an analysis of the CCF in BC
- 01_22C Letter to Ruth Bullock, re: progress of the fund drive; the sub drive
- 01_22D Letter to Alex LaFortune: a critique of his suggested electoral antiwar slogan
- 01_23 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: Vancouver branch discussions on Yugoslavia, the UE and Rose's document, disagreement in their IWA fraction work; the Whalen-Bradley case document; a very good CCF contact in Trail; pitiful left-CCF positions in BC, our relations with Young and Cameron, need a rounded report on the CCF left
- 01_30 Letter to Eve S., re: the reliability of the Stalinist classics publications; our book account
- 02_22 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: need to schedule *LC* for next BC CCF convention; need your advice on focusing content for delegates
- 02_28 Letter to the Vancouver Branch Executive and Ellaline, re: subs and contacts; some prominent Toronto Stalinists migrating close to us
- 02_28B Letter to Bill (W.), Britannia Beach, re: our *LC* sub base good but subs expiring; Stalinist youth moving towards us in Toronto; any info on the Mine-Mill vs. Steel battle there?
- 03_09 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: need BC CCF resolutions to Penticton convention for LC
- 03_23 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: large *LC* sample mailing to BC CCFers; your reaction to issue; local unionist wrote Trail Mine-Mill vs. Steel article; Vancouver

participation at convention; his document against Rose for the bulletin

- 03_24 Letter to Ruth Bullock, re: hopefully working with Trail contact at the convention
- 03_31 Letter to Bill (W.), Britannia Beach, re: sending Preiss book on Stalinist record in the unions; other Mine-Mill contacts in BC; extent of CP influence in Canadian unions diminishing
- 04_06 Letter to Court, Vancouver, re: subs received from a mass mailing; CCF leader David Lewis views us more “dangerous” than the CP
- 04_18 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: our unfortunate absence at Penticton; issues at the convention and left interest in pacifism; an internal bulletin with our convention call, our Trail militant in the CCF
- 04_25 Letter to the Vancouver Branch Executive, re: attendance at a national convention; sub drive; Vancouver correspondence with BC subscribers
- 04_99 Undated letter found in April, to Comrade Ellaline, re: defections in Britain but holding strong with *Socialist Outlook*
- 05_01 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: May Day meeting and next *LC* deadline
- 05_12 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: intervening in the Ontario Stalinist Peace Congress; a BC CCF club resolution re affiliating to the FI
- 05_17 Letter to Comrade Bray, re: the *Labor Challenge* article on the Winnipeg General Strike
- 06_09 Letter to Dick (C.) re unable to print his article in *LC* but encouraging him to become a writer
- 06_27 Letter to Ellaline, re: socialist films available; sending (internal) bulletins; regular NO reports not practical
- 06_27B Letter to Reg Bullock, re: how I had to butcher your IWA article to make it fit, BC developments; the Rose faction in Toronto; reaction to Brent’s counter-document; Tom & Lloyd’s IWA fraction; ours and the SWP’s limited contacts with dissident Yugoslavs
- 07_07 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: the Youth Labor Delegation to Yugoslavia to possibly include a comrade
- 07_18 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: the upcoming CCF convention; the promising CCF and union activist in Trail

07_20 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: considering holding two regional conferences instead of a RWP convention; BC's asking for a delay

07_27 Letter to Cort (Court), re: Coldwell's attack on Trotskyists

07_31 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: the reaction of the BC left to Coldwell's attacks; our assessment of the CCF and RD's proposal for BC entry

08_16 Letter to Dick (C.), Vancouver, re: coverage of the CCF convention; LC's extensive reportage and plans to blanket the CCF; protests flood in to *CCF News*

08_16B Letter to Lucy McD., Vancouver, re: *LC* distributions at CCF pre-convention meeting; Coldwell stirring up the left in BC and Ontario

08_21 Letter to the Vancouver Branch, re: Toronto meeting of dissident CCFers, BC dissident CCFers call for a break from the federal CCF; consideration of our future entry in BC in order to intervene in any new independent socialist formation

09_05 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: good responses from *LC* CCF distribution; you or Dick need to write an article on the large left wing in the CCF; his and Ruth's meeting with the Trail militant (R.); the IWA meeting

09_06 Letter to Dick (C.), re: his request for a critique of the CCF left's policies

09_22 Letter to Ruth Bullock, re: possible Stalinist inroads into the CCF left

10_02 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: Murray attending the SWP convention

10_24 Letter to Alex (L.), re: his book order and no party discount

10_28 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: looking for news of BC and articles for next *LC*

11_01 Letter to Dick (C.) Victoria, re prospects for work on the Island and an important contact

11_20 Letter to Comrade Kurt (Court), re: fund drive progress; CCF youth work in Ontario and your attacking the BC Stalinists for fingering us in the CCF

11_21 Letter to Bill (W.), Britannia Beach, re: our CCYM-CCF work in BC and Ontario; lack of progress with pro-Tito Yugoslavs; defections of LPP leaders

11_24B Letter to Ellaline, re: newsstand sales of *LC*; lack of a BC contact address now; any news of branch classes?

- 11_24 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: agreement from J-M Bédard to set up a Montreal-based control commission to deal with Rose's attitude in the Toronto branch; what reaction on the Rose documents in BC? Vancouver members' status; the witch-hunt at the CCL convention; the Rose accusations of bureaucracy against RD; the RD personality question and should he step aside temporarily?
- 12_20 Letter to Alex (LaF.) re: returning his LC article for revision
- 12_26 Letter to Reg Bullock, re: constitution of a control commission without a SWPer; Barry's case of being provoked by Rose; an article on our debate with Stanley Park (CCF-BC); a lack of communication with various BC centres
- 12_28 Letter to Court, Vancouver, re: a good job on the financial drive, the line-up of Toronto forums; the difficulty of getting past the CCYM leadership in BC; the need for patient work in the CCF

January 3, 1950

Dear ~~XXX~~ Fergy;

Received the subs you forwarded from Edmonton. Back on the road again eh! Good to see you in there pitching with subs. Hope you dont have to stay opt long. I gather from casual remarks from the younger comrades that you are really a healthy influence in the Vancouver branch.

I was thinking the other day how much we here in Toronto miss comrades who have a real background in the working class movement. ...comrades who come from the old CP, Wobly movement, who have participated in real militant struggles. You know we are all proletarian, self sacrificing, active, anxious but the bulk are young and very limited in experience. I with my 33 years am the old timer. All the rest have given up the reins to the ~~YKK~~ youth. It is of course right that they should give up the main effort and main play to the youth but wrong that they should withdraw in other ways. They have a very important role to play. It is through them that all the past practical experiences must be passed on. You know I can see myself just how important what I have experienced and heard about from other comrades is to the party

I was glad to hear that Hatty was coming into the party. An excellent example for the other comrades. Although we have been amazingly successful that way in Vancouver havent we.

I see we have a different address for George Williamson than you sent. We have 58 Alexander while you give 52. Probably we are right as the paper seems to have arrived so far. Will let it go unless you write otherwise.

comradely

Ross

C Ross
Vancouver

Jan 5, 1950

Dear Chatley;

Glad to hear from you yesterday...if only to receive a much needed money order for fifty bucks.

How are you keeping these days? I heard from Ruth that you had moved and I remember some while back that you were quite an idius with Lloyd and the IWA at the plant you worked at. I gather you must have got that straightened up and are still in an IWA shop. Read a report the other day that the IWA confirmed its ruling against the old Stalinist leadership....and that you were going out for 17 cents. What is new in the IWA work. Would like very much to hear from the comrades about our work there and what the immediate perspective is. The unions here in the East ~~are in the same state as the IWA~~ except for the Ford local which put on an inspiring series of pressure walk outs on their leadership and the bosses, have been pretty quiet. Our packinghouse comrades were on the verge of building a caucus, as a matter of fact they were able to get 5 or 6 of the boys together prior to the recent elections on the basis of dissatisfaction with the present local leadership and the last settlement but it appears to have petered off somewhat. There is no question that the continued profiteering, increasing taxation for the war preparations and moves to set into play a wage freeze are going to provoke a deep and violent opposition in the locals in the near future.

By the way I was lucky to receive your letter and the precious money order. It must have arrived here in Toronto about a week ago. Some post office official has marked on it no such address. ~~XXXXXX~~ The only way it got to me was that the officials went to the trouble to look up Ross Dowson in the city directory as you have the address wrong. You had it 67 instead of 87 and Kings Street instead of King Street with no S. You also had no return address so that if they hadn't found me the letter would have gone to the dead letter office, although it is probable that they upon opening it and seeing your name could have found a C. Ross at Lynnmour (the cancellation mark happened to be clear). It would be good to check the address from the paper before you send the letter off and put your address on the outside.

Have much time for reading these days? How did you like the Ceylon pamphlets? Pretty good, eh!

And the same to you. I am sure that we are in for a good New Year. After all we have lived right

comradely

Ross

67 King West, Room 5
Toronto 1, Ont.
January 20, 1960

Dear Comrades McDonnell;

The rush and bustle of the election campaign and getting the last issue of the paper has finally died down and we have an opportunity to take up your last letter.

We have checked up on comrade Dalrymple's plate on our files and find that it is in good order and does not expire for another year at least. We are unable to explain how it could be that he should miss any issues. We have written him a letter asking him if there are any issues he would like us to send on to him.

I hope that you have liked the last few issues. Unfortunately the Vancouver comrades have been unable to send in any contributions from that area in the last while and that has been an unfortunate gap in the paper. And of course the Toronto elections took quite a space. How did you like that slice of Canadian history—on the 1837 Rebellion. We are planning to carry several items along that line in the near ~~future~~ future, including the Winnipeg General Strike Of 1919.

Sorry to hear about George Faulkner's recent accident. We haven't heard from Comrade Burki for a while but he manages to keep in touch with us periodically. It is unfortunate that Comrade Burki is so isolated and unable to make any real use of his excellent knowledge—although I gather that he has certainly done a ~~fine~~ job in spreading his ideas under the conditions that he has had to work under.

with revolutionary greetings

Ross Dowson

R.W.P.
87 King Street West
Room 5, Toronto 1, Ont.
January 22, 1960

To the Vancouver Branch

Dear Comrades;

I would like to apologize for the long delay in answering the various letters that have come in to the N.O. from the various branch officials. I know you will be tolerant of the delay when you know that in keeping with the best traditions of our movement we threw everything thing we had into the election campaign. This compelled us to shove aside all correspondence except the most emergent. Now that the campaign is part of the history of our movement, and quite a splendid note. it is, we promise that all communications will be answered with utmost despatch.

I would like to thank you ~~XXXX~~ on behalf of the Toronto branch for your congratulations. We are sure that when you are confronted with such splendid opportunities to advance our cause that you will carry out your task just as well if not better.

Comrade Ellaline has asked me what the position of the Toronto branch was on the referendum on the open Sunday. I gather this information would be of some value to you as it is possible this question may go before the Vancouver electorate.

The majority of the branch agreed that we should satisfy ourselves with merely making the record as favouring a yes vote on the referendum. The CCF except for one candidate strongly urged a no vote along with all the bourgeois candidates but one. The Stalinists would not commit themselves on the question.

The referendum was put before the electorate with the obvious purpose of diverting the electorates's attention from the real issues, housing, rents, unemployment etc. However for the majority of the population it was the big question in the election. Candidates were continually asked their position at the election meetings. The two candidates who made the Sunday question the main plank in their platform attempted to give the whole question a class character. They showed how there was an open Sunday for those who belong to the Granite Club (a wealthy skating and swimming club which is open to members on Sunday) to private golf clubs etc. But for the majority of the population who do not own cars and are forced to stay in the city there was little to do as organized sport is not allowed. The joker is of course it was the big commercial sports interests that backed the open Sunday forces. The church ~~XXXX~~ organized against the open Sunday. There is no doubt that it was fear of the church influence on the vote that caused all the candidates including the Stalinists to either oppose the yes vote or refuse to commit themselves.

Two years ago when the machine raised the question of permitting the licensing of cocktail bars we labelled this a red herring ~~XXXX~~ although here too it was in the mind of the majority of the electorate the big issue and the candidates who ~~competed~~ for the bars demagogically gave their campaign an element of class content. This year however we instructed the party's candidate, when asked, to state support of a yes vote and to state our stand that it was a democratic issue.

We decided not to campaign for a yes vote but, when asked, to take the stand that it was a simple democratic issue, that no one should be allowed to decide what anyone else should be allowed to do with their time. With our stand we encompassed what class content existed in the question and linked it up with our other democratic demands on the franchise. We pointed out that the referendum was a farce as it did not permit those most immediately involved, those who are stuck in rooming and boarding houses and the young ~~XXXX~~ youth

it did not permit these thousands to express their position on the question. We then made our demand for the extension of the franchise to all over 18 and the removal of all the reactionary property qualifications. This stand permitted us to expose the demagogic position taken by Controller Lamport who made the Sunday vote the sum and substance of his campaign and reveal the fraud of his phoney class line. Lamport is a former Liberal MPP. He defended the present basis of the franchise.

Some of the comrades in the discussion stated their belief that it was looked upon by the workers as a class question. However I think that the results verified the stand taken by the majority that it was not a class question in any real sense of the word. The referendum brought out a big poll but the labor vote dropped. The yes vote won. There are one or two wards that are more pettybourgeois than the others. In these the no vote had the edge but it was cancelled out by the other ward's votes. The vote on the Sunday question did not go to the various candidates on the basis of their stand on the question. Lamport only polled about half the yes votes cast to just squeeze into the Board of Control. In one ward there were two CCF candidates running for Aldermen. One was the only other candidate in the election who campaigned on this question for a yes vote, the other opposed the yes vote but their votes were substantially the same.

You also ask about the franchise. In order to vote in Toronto you must be over 21 and live in a self contained apartment with an assessable value of not less than \$400. You cant vote on money by-laws which occasionally are presented to the electorate unless you are a property owner or I seem to recall you have a twenty five year lease with your landlord. There is a multiple vote system which permits anyone with property in several wards to vote in everyone of those wards for ward candidates however he is supposed to vote only once for the city wide posts (Board of Control and mayoralty)

In the last issue of the paper we inserted a study class ad although we were none too sure that the classes were still in progress. I wonder if ~~the~~ you would inform us of your future plans so that we can have an ad in the next issue. We put the ad in the last issue as we were fairly sure that you would want to distribute that issue at the unemployment insurance offices and we need an address for any interested workers to contact us through. Is it possible to get a post office box yet until such time as we are again able to afford a headquarters.

Fraternally

Ross Dowson

Jan 22, 1950 ✓

Dear Ellalino;

Received your note on the literature that was shipped to Eve Smith. We have not yet refilled the order with unstamped copies as our complete stock of pamphlets is marked with the Labor Challenge stamp. We have placed a new order for the books in question with the Stalinist publishers and as soon as we receive the books we will ship them on to her.

We have billed the Vancouver branch for the pamphlets that Eve Smith turned over to you.\$3.50

She sent us a rather breezy letter just after Christmas telling us about the stamp. She seems rather hard pressed to explain why she can't use copies with the stamp in them. After saying she thinks it "might be foolish to sell them within the CCF" she says she finds the copies of a couple of the classics that they have "down at H.Q. were printed in Moscow"

However I suppose that is her prerogative. Most of her letter is on the difficulties she is having in trying to "get a little left wing education going in the CCF." She goes on to say "Left wing is a poor term." From her letter I get her that she Cameron, Weaver and Steeves are working hard "to get socialist stuff into the paper." She then goes on to say that we made an error in an edit in the November issue where we said that the so-called left "controls or at the very least has considerable strength on the editorial board of the CCF News." According to her the editorial board "is wholly right wing, Frank McKenzie being one of them. J. Powley, is the editor, but I am told that he has very little say in policy."

The letter is quite friendly. And since she seems so down in the mouth about the fight for socialist education in the CCF I am wondering what her attitude is towards us now. Possibly our movement doesn't seem so insignificant to her now as it did when we made the break. You know that she told us to cut out the paper to her home when she sent that hot letter about a year and a half ago. Does she see the paper at all?

Just to straighten up a slight misunderstanding that appears to have cropped up over the fund drive quota. I hope that the comrades did not feel that I was continuing to put the heat on them despite the fact that they thought they could only raise \$200. I received your letter asking for a scaling down to which I replied that you should set your own quota. But I heard no further. The first time I heard about the 200 objective was in your letter of November 24 where you mention "there did seem to be some misunderstanding as to what we could accomplish; when we asked you to accept a reduction of our allotment to \$200 we had-----"

Just a couple of comments on some remarks in the Nov 24th letter. Thanks for the comments on the paper. Yes I have noticed on rereading the paper after it has come off the press that there has been considerable repetition of phrases etc. It is of course inevitable that there should be a tendency for the comrades to build up a stock vocabulary but I should catch ~~them~~ them and see that they are not repeated. Unfortunately the articles usually come with such a flood in the last days that I forget whether these phrases have been used. Then you will have no doubt noticed I have a poor memory for details and probably write some of them myself in the space of three or four days. Will try and do better.

On the cartoon on Stalin which we ran with the IS statement on Tito I am inclined to disagree with you. While the IS statement is soft, it is not soft on Stalin but soft on Tito. To defend Tito in anyway is to repudiate Stalin in the eyes of any Stalinist worker. The first part of the article is a defense of Tito against Stalin's slanders, the latter part is one of the most withering blasts against the Kremlin we have ever carried---"usurpers of the revolution...a rapacious and despotic caste of bureaucrats and parasitic functionaries who live off-----" and so on. I thought that the cartoons were a rather masterful addition to the article adding more conclusive proof of the reactionary character of Stalin and the bureaucracy.....the murder of Lenin's general staff.

I finally received the September October branch minutes from Comrade Alex along with his letter of December 13th. Here I note that the branch took a \$200 quota. I also notice that at the September 15th meeting there must have been quite a debate on the work of the IWA fraction. ...the majority of the branch voting against acceptance of the factions action on the settlement. ~~XXXXXX~~ I see that the chairman was RB(Reg or Ruth?) and he cast deciding vote against the IWA faction position. I hesitate to venture a position on this question with the little information at my disposal but from comrade Alex notes I am inclined to agree with Bill against the reasons that Alex condenses as being those advanced to justify our voting acceptance. I do not believe that we are called to vote acceptance merely because the relationship of forces made it impossible to ~~XXXX~~ pose strike as a practical alternative. I gather from Reg's article that there was considerable dissatisfaction with the settlement and the conduct of the leadership. The degree of our opposition, how sharp we launch and attack on the settlement and the leaders is of course to be decided on the basis of a real knowledge of the situation but ~~XX~~ I am inclined to believe that we should have registered our opposition and put ourselves at the head of the militants who were dissatisfied with the settlement. Probably this is now all so much water under the bridge and we would be ill advised to raise the whole matter again in the branch.

I wonder if you would raise the following matter to the attention of the executive. In my opinion it is essential for the education of the party that the Vancouver comrades strike off a capable comrade to draw up a detailed analysis of the CCF in B.C. This analysis should attempt to estimate the relationship of forces in the CCF, the extent of the left, its general direction, its possible future, ending up with our orientation to this very important development. As you can well imagine many of the comrades in the party are of the opinion that possibly an entry would be advisable in B.C. or at the very least a really extensive fraction. I have informed the comrades that the Vancouver branch has discussed this matter and rejected the idea. The question could be first raised by a document from outside Vancouver ~~XX~~ where I gather all comrades reject the idea of an entry however as you can readily understand no one has any real detailed knowledge of the situation outside of Vancouver and such a method would in my opinion be rather formalistic. I would like to see such a document in order to give a correct orientation to the paper alone. Would you discuss the matter with the comrades and let me know their opinion.

fraternally

Ross

87 King Street West
Room 5, Toronto 1, Ont.
January 22, 1950 ✓

Bohach

Dear Comrade Ruth;

We have finally cleaned up most of the work that piled up from the election and the last issue of the paper so we will be digging into the pile of correspondence —starting off with yours, will write Reg tomorrow.

Enclosed are receipts for the last two money orders. Many thanks. I see from your December 14th letter that there is still some to come on the financial drive and it is due this month. At the end of next week which will be the end of the month would you clean it up and send in what ever there is. I think we should close it off even if some of our comrades and freinds have pledges that are still to be paid on. Not that we should cancel off these pledges. I would like to close the books on the financial drive regardless of what more is to come in and is good. We can just send anything that comes in after the end of the month in with the regular sustaining.

In the next week or so I want to give the party a detailed picture of where we stand on finances and it will be much easier if we close the campaign off.

In the light of this it might be best to postpone carrying out your intentions of raising the whole issue of pledges for a few weeks. I would imagine it will be much easier to bring home the serious of finances and regularity on this question with a detailed accounting of our condition in hand.

Glad to see that we did manage to get some aid from outside sources. Most of the McDonnell contribution came from Mrs E. Graham who is the daughter of George Faulkner an old radical Prairie friend of the McDonnells. In my letter of thanks I gave her a bit of a prod to get in touch with you. Her reply utilized the fact that I was a little slow in acknowledging receipt of the excellent donation to give me a bit of a rap on the knuckles—poor old duck. She doesn't want to have much to do with us from a party point of view but the little group of old radicals that she is in contact with appear to get a great kick out of the paper.

Yes I am sure that the money that we raised for the financial drive represents a considerable sacrifice on the part of all those who contributed. It is particularly something to be proud of when you consider the small forces from which it was drawn. Well next year we will have more to draw from and I hope that we can throw much more of the burden of the campaign quota on outside forces as I know that many of our comrades are doing pretty much all they can do with their sustaining contributions.

Received the sub from Art Salvage alright and I am enclosing the names and adresses of the last batch of persons who subscribed to the paper from recent mailings to that CCF list. Off hand I dont know just what use they will be to you. We sent them all a stock letter addressed to them and typed out to apper to be a personal one in an attempt to make some contact. We got no response except from two of them, neither are worth following up, at least at this time anyway. The last four I am not sure whether we sent a letter to them or not, very doubtful. The pity is that only one of them to my knowledge of that "fair" province of yours is anywhere near Vancouver. Has anyone gone to see this Liljevist on Carroll Street.

Perhaps someone will be able to make a tour this summer and drop in on some of them. What I wouldn't give for a Vancouver CCF mailing list. What do you think

of the possibilities of getting something of this sort from Rod Young . Since they have no paper of their own it is just remotely possible something could be worked along this line.

We have made one good contact through the mailings and that is Burton in Trail. He is on the porvithical council and is very much impressed by the paper and our program. More later on this to Reg.

warmest regards

Ross

87 King Street West Room 5
Toronto 1, Ont.
January 22, 1950

Dear Comrade Alex;

(LaFortune?) VANCOUVER

Thanks for the minutes that you forwarded on December 15 and the enclosed note. The comrades told me that we had a new addition to our ranks out there and I am pleased to see that you have really grabbed hold of some responsibility in the party. That is one thing you can say about our party--the top is wide open and any comrade who really feels the revolutionary spirit that burned in Lenin and Trotsky can advance in the party without coming up against persons such as are common in the CCF and LPP who have latched onto posts and responsibilities and desire to hold onto them even to the detriment of the movement. This taking on of responsibilities is the only real way to develop oneself as a political person. I know that my own political education only really commenced with working on the paper, having to analyze new developments, apply what little knowledge I had at my disposal, having to put ideas down on paper.

Thanks for your warm appreciation of the last few issues of the paper. But don't hesitate to hand us any criticism that you think should be made. We want the paper to be the voice of the party. If you ever feel the urge why not try your hand at writing a letter to the editor on some item that you feel might be of interest to our readers.

Thanks also for your suggested electoral slogan. They are pretty tough things to work out--to sum up important ideas in a few words. It certainly fits in with the initials of the party but when it comes to expressing any of our fundamental ideas I am of the opinion that it is not a very successful slogan.

The Right to Work in Peace.....I am afraid that it is open to all kinds of misunderstandings. Let us assume that the person hearing it believes that it is addressed to the present war danger. We don't want war, we want peace, it might be paraphrased.

One might assume that what the RWP wants is the preservation of the condition that now prevails as against the proposition that ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~is~~ ^{is} in preparation. But can one say that there is peace today. It is true that World War III has not broken out yet in all its horror but fierce class war is raging in Burma, Indo-China, China and elsewhere. The class war is raging on in America--its true that it is not open but it is raging on underneath breaking out into the open in isolated areas such as in the US coal fields. There is in truth no peace today anywhere in the world.

Yes we want peace, but there is none now and there will be none until the social revolution is achieved. The class war is a reality; this war we support and are its partisans. This war which is the inevitable product of capitalism we enter into wholly in order to sharpen the consciousness of the masses and direct it towards its solution in socialism. In a few words the slogan if understood to be addressed to the present war danger has pacifist implications....and far from doing what a slogan is designed to do, give clarity, would only do the opposite.

Then again perhaps you were addressing it to the problem of unemployment. Well the right to work is good. If we are agreed that in peace must go I am not too sure off hand what we can substitute. If we are going to qualify the right to work I suppose it would have to be along the line, without exploitation, to work in the production of goods for use and not profit, or the right to work in order to do away with work--in the words of the title of LaFargue's little book ..the right to be lazy.

Better luck next time.

Again thanks for the note. Hope you can find time to bang off some more of the branch minutes.

Only too pleased to answer anything you may direct this way. I cant promise an immediate reply but will get there sooner or later.

with revolutionary greetings

Ross Dowson.

Dear Reg:

Bullock

Germain-Ernest Mandel (FI)
Barry Brunt

Well from now on in you're in for a pile of correspondence coming from this end. With the election gone and the work that piled up cleared away and Barry working down here I will be sending you letter after letter. Hope that you manage to keep in good health after you shake off the last round you tell about so you can keep up your end for I never intend to let the correspondence go to pieces as I have in the last two or three months.

This letter will be rather unorganized as there are a dozen little matters that I would like to clear away. I hope you have been getting all the internal bulletins that we have been sending out via WJW. Has the branch had a discussion on Yugoslavia? We have opened up the discussion in Toronto with two internals, we are calling it off for a while until the comrades can further digest the discussions and the internal bulletins and then will be taking it up again. Hope that you have had time to get down to work on the bulletins on the question. I tend to support the Germain document but am anxious to hear more. What is your opinion.

I suppose the branch received the discussion bulletin on the UE. Did they previously receive direct from Joe Rose a copy of his document. He sent it out to other sections of the party some two or three weeks prior to submitting it to the internal bulletin. But I don't know whether he had a Vancouver address. I hope if he did get a Vancouver address that it did not disturb any of the new comrades with its monstrous distortions. Of course if they first heard it all through the discussion bulletin with my rather hurried reply (written, stencilled and run off in about a day and a half) it probably had no effect at all but one of wonder what it is all about.

Our new comrade ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Alex forwarded a batch of minutes last month. He is a very enthusiastic and apparently quite intelligent comrade. He suggested a slogan for the election campaign about which I had a long discussion with him -- it had pacifist implications. It is a long time ago now but in the September 15 minutes I see a report that the branch following a discussion of the IWA fraction work voted against acceptance of the report. While there is not much information in the minutes I gather by a no man majority (the chairman a R.B.) the comrades opposed our support of the settlement. Is it all so much water under the bridge, is it too late for me to put my two-bits in? If it isn't, on the basis of the information available I am inclined to agree that we should not have supported the settlement. The fact that the relationship of forces exclude our posing strike, or putting forward any other concrete proposal seems to me to not be the basis of supporting the settlement. I seem to recall from your articles and comments that there was considerable opposition to the leadership's conduct and the settlement itself. I am inclined to believe that a vote against the settlement would be a good thing, it could be the beginning of the formation of a left wing. If there was no real opposition to the settlement then of course it would be foolish to oppose it--you would only isolate ourselves. Exactly how strenuously we oppose the settlement, how far we would go would have to be determined by the relationship of forces. ~~XX~~

With the knowledge at my disposal, and of course it is very slim, this is the stand that I would have taken...that we should have opposed the settlement. However in your last letter I note that the branch has taken an orientation towards the Whalen caucus. on the basis that the rank and file militants have gravitated towards it. I am not in a position to estimate the correctness of this particularly in view of your October 26 letter page 5 which talks about the possibilities of forming our own caucus.

However if the militants are in the Whalen caucus which is highly probable and Lloyd demonstrated in various ways his opposition to the settlement ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ even though in very mild ways then it would seem to me to be correct to not openly oppose the settlement on the floor.

I gather that since nothing more about it appears in the minutes and you make no mention, that we have a very good atmosphere in the branch ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. Not like old times eh when if Lloyd and Tom were challenged on such a question there would be bloody hell break loose and opposition spoke its word with ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ its heart in its mouth. Our discussions and disagreements can now take place in an atmosphere that ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ permits them to raise the level of all the comrades in the branch.

While I think of it...and I hate to bug you as I know you are very busy...what ever became of that draft I made on the Whalen Bradely case. How about digging it up before we will have to publish the thing with an introduction telling who Whalen and Bradely were and what the situation was in the Canadian labor movement when the workers needed unions, fought for wage increases---before socialism.

Now to give you a little information on the CCF in return for the pile you sent us. This A Burton of Trail B.C. has been flooding the office with correspondence. He is a fervent admirer of the paper, he is going to get us subs. His letters are full of intelligent enquiries, he is revolutionary and anti-Stalinist. Extremely close to us. In his first letters he tended to stress his firm loyalties to the CCF although showed few illusions about its character...now he ~~INX~~ is sending money inot the financial drive (\$2), wants a copy of the party constitution and ordered a bound volume of the paper. He can be a really powerful lever for us in the CCF. He is vice-president of the local executive of the Civic Works Union of Rossland Trail and Tadanac, he is district executive secretary of the Rossland Trail CCF and a member of that riding of the Provincial Council. He says that the letter that he sent into our paper raised quite a storm but "the majority of the membership supported me, however even my closest supporters disapproved of my sending the letter outside the CCF. He says in his last letter; "I have made a number of extensive contacts with the rank and file and with those of the provincial leadership with leftist tendencies such as the chairman of the Educational Committee and some of the committee members and with the provincial theoretician, George Weaver, and we are carrying on correspondence in order to co-ordinate our viewpoints and our actions in the struggle to guide the CCF along more militant and revolutionary road."

I am writing him in a day or so. I am wondering if we should not transfer his correspondence to Vancouver. I am only too glad to handle it but if we are going to do any work with him it would have to be done through you comrades--besides you are more fitted in many ways to handle the situation as you are more familiar with the CCF. He no doubt comes into Vancouver a couple of times a year since he is a member of the provincial council. I think I should turn the whole thing over to Vancouver and some one of the more competent politically developed comrades carry the contact--would you, Ellaline or perhaps Bill be able to do it. Let me know in the next letter. I will certainly give him an address so that he will meet us when he goes to Van. I think you will agree that this fellow can be worth his weight in gold--worth many Young's Cameron's etc and whatever connections we can make with and through them.

"It's (Young's document) pretty pitiful." A masterful understatement. So this is what that guy thinks is going to be the basis of consolidating the left. And he talks about our using it in the Labor Challenge. Well I am convinced that as a contribution to the clarification of the left (his article and any reply that we could make) it is valueless. It is a classic example of the welfare state theory, a bourgeois papacea. Surely he doesn't think that a left wing can be consolidated around this thing. Did you get an idea how other "left wingers" on the provincial council reacted to it. Is it just Young's, I gather that it is as you say Cameron presented the B.C. breif. You say Cameron's breif was consistent with his N.Z. Australian election analysis. This would really be worthwhile in my opinion to obtain and publish in our paper. It is no doubt a serious attempt to come to grips with the question of program.

Cameron's article on NZ and Australia while it marked an even more fundamental turn from reformism in my opinion marked a step backwards---abstention, withdrawing out of and away from the problems of the class struggle. I would gather that Weaver is exerting more and more influence over the "left"---this has been his old Socialist Party line for some while---remember his incredible contribution on the Atlantic Pact. I think it was necessary for us to be sharper in the last issue, while still comradely. A left that has any perspective of carrying on a struggle with the Coldwells and developing towards our movement will never be formed around Cameron's latest ivory tower comments. Here the line has to be drawn sharply...and here is where any elements such as Burton in Trail have to part company with Cameron.

If I do not hear otherwise from you we will probably be carrying a article in the next issue taking Lewis and Laura Jameison to town---a sort of critical defence of Cameron's position. But we would like a copy of Cameron's brief, this might be better to handle.

While Young's article is worthless from the point of view of taking it as a serious contribution to the shaping of a left wing policy---and if we took it as such we would have to throw everything at him, it might be useful in another way. For some time now we have been talking about running something on the welfare state theories. Young's article may be useful as a foil. It is quite a typical example of many ~~XXX~~ panaceas being put forward in the US by many Keynesian economists. However such an article would not have to go in the next issue.

I suppose you are hot on the job of getting whatever information we can from Young and Cameron. It would be good if we could write up an article on the Winnipeg gathering. And anyhow the information is invaluable in determining our own orientation.

You know Young best but in my opinion I think we should be quite sharp with him about this last document, its worthlessness, its stupidities. Left to himself he appears to me to be so hopelessly confused and opportunist as to be worthless..but the interesting thing is that he feels close to us. I wonder if we should not try to be more forceful with him: move in on him, perhaps draw up his documents for him if he will let us.

As for Cameron, he appears to be a much more serious and stable type. It would be well worthwhile in my opinion to have a serious discussion, very candid about his sectarian line he is now advancing. Has he ever seen our transitional program, have we ever talked with him about Socialist Outlook. I believe we should take time out to have a serious discussion with him on the article that Barry wrote in reply to his NZ Australian article.. I am writing him a friendly letter and am sending it onto you for your approval and positing if you agree.

I cannot believe that Cameron's contributions are not setting off all kinds of revolutionary tendencies in the CCF in B.C. The big problem is how to get in contact with these CCFers. Surely Cameron and Young don't think they can go on like this without bringing the wrath of the leadership on their heads(were no actions taken at Winnipeg against the left?) Surely they must be making some preparations to line up their forces. to prepare for a struggle for their ideas or at least the right to broadcast their ideas. I see that the National Convention is slated for Vancouver---obviously to put the full weight of the party on the B.C. left.

The whole bloody thing is going to blow up at this convention. And they are apparently doing nothing, they are releasing forces which they have no control of and which we are unfortunately unable to get our fingers on. I think we have to hammer the organization line with them...the bulletin.

I see that Cameron has been making the rounds at the various clubs putting forward his ideas. How is the attendance at these meetings, what reception does our paper get, what is the reaction to Cameron's line, does he get support from the floor. There is no

question in my mind regardless of Cameron failure to organize anything that the left wing is really consolidating. I am sure that in those clubs where Cameron speaks blocks are being set up, taking shape.

It is absolutely essential Reg that you sit down in the next night or two and type up a rounded report on the B.C. CCF, an analysis of the various forces, the situations in the club and our orientation to this whole left development. To hell with everything else I have raised in this letter until we have this. It doesn't matter if it isn't so polished or you don't have as much time as you would like to mull the thing over. We have to have this and as soon as possible. This is the most favourable development on the Canadian scenes for years.

If the situation is such that you just can't do this would you let me know ~~IN~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ right away. On the basis of the information now at our disposal I favor entry of the Vancouver branch. I say this not only in the belief that conditions in the CCF are favourable but in the conviction that the branch is well knit and politically solid. If you are unable to whip up this document then I intend to write a contribution right away.

There are several other matters that I wanted to take up but I will be putting out an NC report in a day or so and will write again very shortly.

with warmest regards

Ross

THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS PARTY
87 King Street West, Room 5
Toronto 1, Ont.

January 30, 1950

Eve Smith
3525 West 27th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Comrade Smith;

By now you should have received our replacement for the pamphlets that you turned over to our Vancouver comrades. Unfortunately we were unable to obtain American editions of Value Price and Profit and Wage Labor and Capital. I hope that the Russian editions are satisfactory. Our impression is from looking over the International Publishers stock here in Toronto that most editions that they are going to be handling in the future are Moscow editions.

Just a few words on the reliability of the Stalinist editions of the marxist classics. To the best of my knowledge the texts themselves are untouched and therefore are completely reliable. The falsifications come in in the introductions, foot-notes, appendices. They distort Lenin's works and his contemporaries' by publishing only certain writings and withholding others. For instances they will publish in thousands of editions every word of disagreement between Lenin and Trotsky and delete any and all references to agreement. Much of Lenin and all that does not conform to the Stalin line remains unpublished to this day. We too hate to circulate books with the International address on them and the listing on the back covers, that is why we insert our address in each copy. Unfortunately ~~IMXXX~~ we are as yet too poor to put out our own editions and so it is either the Stalinist editions or none.

Thanks for the corrections of our November issue.

I hope that you have been receiving our paper regularly and sincerely hope that you have found it of value in your work of building the CCF left. We would be very much interested in hearing your opinion of the last few issues, particularly our analysis of Cameron's programmatic efforts.

By the way have you read The Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International. Of all our pamphlets I think this is the most valuable for the B.C. left. Trotsky discusses in this document in considerable detail what kind of program must be adopted by socialists today.

Sorry to be so long with the list. Hope you find several items that meet your needs.

According to our books your
account stands at \$1.45
Order worth 5.45
Money order 4.00
1.45

Fraternally

Ross Dowson

February 22, 1950

Vancouver

Dear Reg;

Received your letters with all the inside dope on recent developments in the CCF.

Am not going to say much in this letter but just ask you one or two questions which I hope you or Ruth will be able to speed back a reply on.

When is the Provincial Convention? We need the date as soon as possible in order to plan the coming issue of the paper. I understand it is in April. If it is in the first week of April then we must say what we want to say (hoping to influence the convention) in the coming issue (March) So we need the date.

Now, there is the question of all this inside dope on the doings at the provincial executive, and the national council. Just what can we use and just what can't we. One thing we want to be sure we don't do—and that is to expose our source of information. Can we talk about the provincial executive meeting and the CCF NEWS without exposing Young, O'Brien or Cameron. Can we give the inside dope on the national council without exposing Young and Cameron. And then their cutting us off.

When they give us this information do they do so with the idea that we may publish it or just as interesting information to you in return for advice you may give them. We need not be afraid of their being linked up with us by the Coldwell gang, no fear on our part but what about them. Aren't they liable to cut us off when they come under fire from the Coldwell gang. You know when Young sent us that material for publication I was quite surprised. Didn't he think there would be hell raised. There was quite a stink in Burton's case over the letter we published but Young is on the N.C.

I would feel much more at ease in writing up this stuff if I knew that they were fully conscious of what they were doing and that the fire works that will come from the publication will not drive them away from us and cut us off from further information. Perhaps it would all be solved if they wrote out just what they would not mind seeing go into the paper. Or if you wrote up the stuff and showed it to them before publication. Or if they would give us the go-ahead let us say in writing up all that stuff about CCF NEWS, the national council treatment of the B.C. reps—give us the go ahead on specific cases.

Can we send someone into Penticton, preferably you? I suggest you as we want someone who can not only distribute the paper to the delegates but who can meet with the left wingers, try to give direction advice and at the same time size up the situation for subsequent coverage in the paper. I know that this may be difficult to arrange. Is it possible. In my opinion failing our ability to send a leading comrade in we should go to the expense and effort to send a comrade if only to distribute the paper and see what he can do.

We should tell Young and O'Brien and Cameron that we are preparing a special issue and ask them for whatever they feel ready to give us. Offer to turn the paper over to them. We will want copies of resolutions that are being submitted to the convention. Anything they have. Have we in Vancouver anything at all in the CCF? If so are we presenting any resolutions? In the Trail delegates elections Burton won out with a group of his left wingers. I want to discuss with him the question of resolutions and if there is anything in Vancouver we should co-ordinate our efforts.

Wish we had the dough that would permit me to come out, possibly we can arrange it for the Vancouver convention.....there is only one other fly in the ointment---we need a convention.

~~XX~~ more later

comradely

Let me know the convention date just as soon as you can anyway.

Ross

Vancouver *Branch Executive*
Dear Comrade Ellaline;

February 28, 1950

Just a line to clear away a couple of details; Who's our contact man out there. Here are the names and addresses of a couple of persons who renewed their subs via mail, together with a person who sent in a one year sub having received the paper from a trial mailing. I am sure they would be well worth our while following up

I would like to know if you have heard from Byron Johnson in the past several months. We have heard no word and I wonder if you would attempt to establish contact with him.

I am enclosing a clipping from the latest issue of the Tribune. As you know when they start paying any attention to us it is always a good sign that we are causing a bit of a turmoil in their ranks. As a matter of fact unknown to them the leading activist in the Stalinist youth movement in the Toronto area is very close to us. We did a distribution of the last issue at an NFLY rally last week. One of the results was an executive member proposing that they should have a debate with us. Of course it was ruthlessly ridiculed and squashed. The Windsor comrades report that the LPP's most prominent spokesman in the Windsor labor movement has broken and is rather friendly to us. He is a brother of one of our comrades. Don is doing good work there. We are holding a class and getting good attendance. Several ex-Stalinists have been turned up in the Toronto area lately, I don't know what success we are going to have but they are friendly. wh

-2-

Wait with the continued and ever sharpening crisis in international Stalinism ~~if~~ the branch would do well in my opinion to ~~paper~~ ^{paper} Stalinist meetings with the paper when possible and attempt to do a little concentrated work on Talinism. The last issue of the paper was in my opinion particularly suited for ~~Stalinist~~ working on Stalinists.

How is the renewal work coming along

warmest regards

Ross

February 28, 1950

Britannia Beach

Dear Comrade Bill;

Very glad to hear from you after such a long silence. Hope you have been receiving the raft of internal bulletins that we have been shipping out and that you have liked the paper.

I am very sorry to hear that you have lost some of your family. I had heard nothing from Vancouver about it. I hope that your wife and child are well. ~~My wife~~ Was your wife able to get her eyes looked after successfully.

Thanks for the renewals for Vankuyke and Elliott. Bar circulation took a big dip last month due to the expiration of hundreds of subs. I hope that we can hold on to as many as possible until the big turn out of the present passivity comes about. The comrades in Toronto are picking up a fairly high percentage of the expirations. The percentage of renewals should be actually higher than what it is in Toronto because the list we are working on is composed of in the main part of persons who put CCF signs out on their house during last June's election. However it is about the same as when we were working over a list of subs that had been picked up from straight door to door work. I guess it only shows what effect the past two years now has had on the CCF. This is not sour grapes but a column in CCF NEWS(B.C.) of last month made the startling revelation that in the city of Trail CCF NEWS had only 28 subscribers. and the same situation held in Chilliwack, and several other points. Considering all in all we are in excellent shape here in Canada. Our cadre is well knit, our moral is good. Considering the times we live in, the advanced character of our program our strength in comparison to the LPP and CCF is truly colossal. There is possibly no other country in the world with the possible exception of Ceylon and Bolivia where the size of the revolutionary cadre and its influence in relation to the general level of political development in the country and the size of the reformist parties(LPP and CCF) is so favourable as here in Canada.

The disintegration of Stalinism on a world scale is having considerable toll on the LPP. The Windsor comrades who for the first time have been able to hold very successful study classes have just reported that the most prominent spokesman for the LPP in the Windsor trade union movement has quite the party. It so happens that he is the brother of a comrade...he is rather friendly to us. Toronto has been causing a real stir in the Stalinist youth movement(NFLY) "the most prominent activist in the Toronto area is very close to us. After we did a distribution as a rally of theirs one of the executive members proposed that they should arrange a debate with us. Of course he got hammered down. We are doing some work on some LPP members who are not at all unfriendly to us. A proof that we are causing considerable embarrassment to the tops and they are having a hard time explaining us away was the publication of a stupid slanderous letter to the editor in the last issue of the Tribune attempting to link us up with Gladstone Murray(Trestrail's heir) Things are pretty quiet here in the East in the CCF although it looks like we might get a break in the youth movement in the Toronto area. In the West in B.C. everything is happening hopping. The provincial convention is taking place early next month. And there is going to be fireworks. Unfortunately we are pretty much on the outside. but we have splendid contact. Reg will in all probability go to the convention to see what can be done...it is in Penticton.

The next issue

It is hard to say just what will happen. We are going to be a big factor I hope through Labor Challenge. We have some terrific inside dope which we are going to reveal to the membership. There is no doubt that the struggle between the Cameron-ites and the official leadership is going to be very sharp. The Cameron gang are very little prepared but there is a real opposition to the Coldwell leadership regardless that will count for a great deal. Whether there will be any rupture or whether this convention will mark a consolidation of some type for the national CCF convention in July in Vancouver is hard to say.

The battle between Mine Mill and Steel is bound to be one of the boxes of contention. I was wondering what the score is in Britannia Beach and have been intending to write you about it and our line of march. Have the Stalinists got the local leadership or the so-called right wing(it is hard to call any group a right when you are comparing it with the LPP gang and their phoney leftism) I notice that the Stalinists in their press completely ignore Britannia when they talk about the rallying of the rank and file to Mine Mill.

I have a lot of information on hand which would be very valuable for you in your work. I am sending along with this letter several peices of correspondence that I have received ~~AAA~~ from a new first rate contact that Labor Challenge has turned up in T^{ail}. I am also sending al along a few of my answers to questions he raises and an outline of the policy that I think we should take in Mine Mill at this time. It is so detailed and I think self explanatory...and I am so pressed for time...that I am sending it along to you for your examination. I would like very much to hear your opinion of this material and also to hear some of the details of what is happening in Britannia.

Would you send me all this correspondence back just as soon as you have gone through it...via air mail would be preferred. I would like to have it back here in my hands by Monday morning as I will want some of the details for some articles that we are writing for the next issue. Sorry to so rush you...

Can I send any more books to you---what titels or subjects.

with warmest regards

Ross Dowson

March 9, 1950 ✓

Bullock
Dear Regi

By now you will have received the bulletin....your contribution came in just in time to make it. Wanted to put it in the ~~XXXX~~ bulletin in order to counteract some of the other ~~XXXX~~ material. Published it without the figures on CCF strength--- they can always be added in by the comrades....we can inform them by letter. Will make some comments on the document later.

Received a five page article in the mail last week along with a list of left wingers(CCF) No name on it to tell us who it is from....on the whole it is fairly good except for some crap about Arthur Turners scheme on eggs which will do away with money and capitalists. We are publishing it. Is this from Rod Young....find it hard to believe as it is fairly critical of the left making no preparations for the convention.

Busy with the paper which we hope to get out this next Wednesday or Thursday Although Wednesday will probably be taken up with E.R. Frank. I hear they have arranged as we requested that Vancouver get in on the circuit. It will be a good meeting for all the comrades.

There is one bit of information I would like you to give me. We are holding space for the CCF resolutions that we hear are going to come out. Possibly you have obtained copies and already sent them on to us...if that is the case then everything is fine. But if you cant get copies by Monday morning, that is drop them in the mail to us by Monday morning, would you send us a wire at that time. ~~XXXX~~ It is necessary that I receive the material or know that I am not on Monday so that we can make other arrangements with the space.

Burton tells us that there is a rumour affot that the Kimberley CCF club has been expelled---he doubts its reliability however....as he is District Secretary. Will write at length as soon as we get this issue out. We are really going to flood B.C.

warrest regards

Ross

March 23, 1950 ✓

Vancouver
Dear Reg;

Sorry to be so long in answering your letters and taking up several things that are rather pressing but we ~~have~~ no sooner got the paper off when we got tied up with mailings and other new and pressing problems.

So far I would say we have mailed out about 1,750 sample copies of the last issue to various names and addresses in B.C. We are also using lists in Sask and one or two we have managed to get hold of in Que and Toronto but they don't amount to any great number. So I think we can be sure that we are really raising a rumpus in the CCF.

How did you like the last issue, the folding idea, the coverage etc. We tried to address the whole issue to the CCF, the Br elections, the UN, Is Stalinism equal to Bolshevism, Was Marx a reformist etc. There is only one important thing missing from the issue as far as I can see...the resolutions going before the convention and the program that we think the left should rally around. However we dealt with the question of the program in the last few issues, it is implicit in some of the articles, then again there is some value in the vaguery...we actually don't know what or how the issues are going to be posed and if we did have a few people that were anxious to follow our lead we would not particularly want to force them out on questions without knowing the relationship of forces etc.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ The Trail Mine Mill vrs Steel article was written by Burton. Had to make very few changes. He is an extremely talented guy. He now wants to join the party. There is no doubt whatsoever he should come in...he is going to be a powerful addition. I still do not know who sent the other article in...was it Eve Smith or who. Anyway I hope you will hop on the phone and explain to whoever it is as change we had to make in their contribution. This was one article in the paper I did not want to touch. Unfortunately ~~XXXXXX~~ at the last minute when we were working on the stone we found we were about 18 lines over in copy. And it so happened the way the page was laid out that that article was the only one from which we could take it. We dropped the date line etc and if we had tried to make up the space from other articles we would have had to take out 2 or 3 times as many lines. So I took the ax and cut out one whole paragraph from the article. I am sending you the proof so that the person can have no doubt of our good faith. It was set and everything but there just wasn't any alternative...if I knew who it was I would send an explanation because we do want these contributions despite that comment on doing away with capitalists and money, and Rod Young showing his true colors on the Atlantic Fact issue. (For a moment I was wondering if it was satire) I don't think the person should be too disturbed as the cut obviously was not one that we would have made for our own political purposes - as a matter of fact the material in the paragraph was covered in the lead story on that page.

You knew no doubt that our unknown contributor sent in a list of about 50 names (leftwing)

Now about the convention; Are you going to be able to make it alright. Has the branch got the money on hand to advance you for expenses or should I send out some?

How many copies of the paper do you want me to send out. ~~XXX~~ Can we send out any other literature. If some other comrade was able to go with you I wonder what you think of setting up a literature stand in the foyer of a hotel there. For a couple of bucks I suppose a hotel keeper would let you. The other comrade could look after it...we might not do too bad. At any rate I can imagine you could put to use several copies of the Transitional program. About the distribution of the paper to delegates. If you go alone I do not think it a good idea for you to do it. I am sure we could get some kid in the town to do it for half a buck. You will have to be on your dignity as the rep of Labor Challenge and the Fourth.

I dont think I will take any time to say anything on the CCF documents as there is a lot of mail waiting for me right now to answer. I

Hope you can find time to drop us a line on recent developments

comradely

Ross

March 31, 1950

Britannia Beach, B.C.

Dear Comrade Bill;

Got a little tied up with other work but managed to send off in the mail a copy of Comrade Preiss' pamphlet on the Stalinist record in Maritime which I think covers your request for material on Stalinist crimes in American trade union movement. You will note that I also enclosed a copy of the issue of Labor Challenge dealing with the Stalinist pull out on the IWA and how they left things there. Do you keep a file of Labor Challenge? Their biggest crimes in the past period have hit the pages of our ~~WPA~~ press periodically. Bradely had some material on Murphy and his Trail contract during the war in the September 1945 issue and we had an item on their agreements in New York Fur and Hawaii sugar just a few issues ago. We carried exposures on their big noises and their hitch hicking in on the settlements set at Ford and Steel in the 1945-46 struggles here in Canada and in the US. We exposed their one at a time policy in the Great Lakes strike struggles in 46 and 47. I think that Labor Challenge files are your best bet and you should have one on hand. We still have bound volumes. We were selling them at \$2.50 which is pretty well their cost. If you are a little hard up let me send you one and you can pay when able.

Here is Burton's address.

A. Burton
984 Warren St.
Trail, B.C.

I think it would be an excellent idea to keep in touch with him. While he is not in Mine Mill nearly all of his contacts are and your information would be valuable for him and no doubt you would find his information an aid in your work. How did you like his first contribution to the paper---the long article on Mine Mill-Steel? It provoked Murray Cotterill into writing us a letter....we are reproducing it for the next issue along with a reply by Burton.

Made a terrific mailing of the last issue to B.C. We used the list of names obtained from the CCF News financial drive reports. So ~~far~~ far we have received 7 subscriptions from the mailing....one for a dollar and another from Saskatchewan with a very encouraging note attached. Sent as many as we could into Kimberley but unfortunately we received ~~no response~~ no response. How did our CCF readers in ~~Trail~~ like it along with the material on the B.C. CCF itself?
Britannia

Havent received any new information from Trail as Burton is apparently tied up night and day with negotiations...he intimates in his last letter that it is possible that he wont even be able to make the CCF convention---which would be a real tragedy. My impression is, formed on very flimsy and limited observation, that he tends to get too tied up in various good works--such as helping the Brewery workers organize, the co-ops, along with his of course much more vital work...his activity in the CCF and his own union. However we should be able to correct this little problem with ease in the future. He has applied for membership in the party and the the N.C. has welcomed him in. He ~~will~~ is a real addition to the party.

I am highly doubtful if there is any truth in the rumour about Mine Mill affiliation to the United Mine Workers...All I could see in Barrett's comments were defence of Mine Mill's jurisdiction from Steel. As far as I know Barrett is right in their with Mosher and Conroy in so far as Mine Mill and its leadership itself is concerned. I do not know what John L Lewis exerts on Barrett and Canadian UMW policy but ~~LEWIS~~ Lewis is probably the source of Barrett's open opposition to Steel...part of Lewis' long standing feud with Murray. Yes it would be a very progressive development if the Mine workers, Mine Mill and the Mexican union were in one international body but I don't think it is in the cards for quite a while. From what you say in your note I would gather that the Mexican Mine Union is Stalinist dominated.

I was not aware that the question of setting up a Stalinist trade union center had been proposed at the Trail gathering. I do not believe that such an action is in the cards...it has been bruited about by various CCL leaders in the Toronto area but the Stalinists couldn't get away with it. There was a possibility apparently that they would do so last November just prior to the CIO convention expulsion. That would have seemed to me to have been the most favourable time if they were going to try to pull it off but they took the gate and since then have been losing local after local in all their internationals. At the last CCL Ontario convention they only had 19 votes. They are of course still a power in many important locals but they have a real hold on only one or two national bodies...the Fur and Leather, the Small Ontario lumberworkers Union, west coast Mine Mill and perhaps a few others but while they still have influence in other unions they have little machine control. ~~They have no control~~ It looks certain that they will lose heavily in their AFL Textile, the next vote in the big Montreal local will probably see them out, they have retreated in the AFL chemical, the Seamen are out of the Great Lakes and their West Coast group is being raided by SIU goons. Mine Mill will lose the next vote probably at Port Colborne and quite probably at Trail also. The Ontario anti-labor law it so happens has worked in their favor against the raiders. Their hold is very tenuous on even that they have and if they ~~tried~~ tried to yank these unions and locals out of the TIC and CCL I am sure they would be facing a complete debacle. You know when they set up the red trade unions and the Workers Unity League they had this in their favor...they represented industrial unionism as against craft unionism....at the same time the Canadian working class, very poorly organized was not so national and international union center conscious.

Of course the above is all very well but when talking about the Stalinist we must remember that they are quite capable of making the most adventurist maneuvers, the most ultra leftist on zags.

Havent any more important dope on the CCF convention. One of the Vancouver comrades is definitely going and so is Byron Johnson as a delegate from his club. So we will have a full coverage in the next issue of the paper. We have found it almost impossible to get a copy of the resolutions. Due to the lack of organization of the left it is impossible to say how the fight is going to unfold...they are going to have little control over it---it is in the hands of the right.

But we will hear in the next issue.

Comradely

Ros

April 6, 1950

Vancouver

Dear Comrade Court;

Thanks very much for the renewals and the five dollars---we needed both

badly. already
If we get no further response we have done excellently with the last issue of the paper. We mailed somewhere around 1,500 out, mostly to B.C. outside Vancouver points and a few hundred elsewhere. So far we have received 7 subs. Two came from Saskatchewan, one from Montreal, two from Vancouver and the other two from outside Vancouver. One of those that came from Saskatchewan appears to be a very good one. The fellow sent us a letter that we are reproducing in the next issue.

I am not bothering to send you the names for the B.C. subs outside of Vancouver for they are pretty useless to you, one is away up the Skeena River (I will send the address to Angus) and the other is in the Okanagan Valley.

But here are the two Vancouver subs. Mandale I never heard of but the other address is a familiar one. We have a sub for an R. R. Williams at the same address, and that sub was renewed fairly recently, I think by mail but I am not sure. It will certainly be worthwhile for a couple of comrades to drop around and see these two subscribers at first opportunity.

Got an interesting letter from Alex where he reported his and Dick's experience at one of the CCF meetings. I am sure the last issue must have created a sensation in the CCF. Suprised that CCF News has found itself able to remain silent on us. I was speaking to David Lewis the other day and he remarked that we really had an inside contact. He told me that in his exalted opinion we were much worse than the Stalinists because we had no loyalties. I ridiculed this comment by stating we were loyal to our class and to our principles...which he brushed aside as being like loyal to virtue. From his point of view of course we are more "dangerous." No doubt Alex will be reporting that we were a big issue at the convention.

Toronto
day. We will did pretty good on renewals---I got seven out of fourteen one a success---be writing it up in the next issue. Hope the Frank meeting is
glad to see you back in Vancouver.

Getting ready to go to press so must close off short

with revolutionary greetings

Ross

April 18, 1950

Dear Reg;

Too bad

Well we finally squeezed the paper off this morning. ~~XXXXX~~ ~~XXXXX~~ we did not have more material on the Pentiction convention, but more later.

Sorry that I heard about your decision not to go to Pentiction so late. I think we made a mistake in not going despite Burton etc. There is parsimony and parsimony. You know it is a big joke around here about parsimonious Dowson, saving bits of string, paper and so forth. But ~~XXXXX~~ this was an occasion in my opinion that we should not have worried about our financial position...yes as bad as it is. Not that I believed that we could effect in any real way the course of developments but it would certainly have increased our knowledge of this movement, the tendencies and character - istics of its more prominent and active members etc. And it needed someone like you to assimilate the experience and pass it on to the party with all due respect to Alex.

~~XXXXX~~ all our plans ^{went} ^{naught} to not eh. Byron is starting to move again. In his last letter he was very apologetic for his past silence and told me that he was all set to go to the convention, he was getting in touch with you, tuning his car up etc. I wrote him a note telling him to send me everything he could on the convention, little sidelights included. Then I hear from him that at the last moment he did not go on the basis of reports on the terrible conditions on the roads. When I heard from Burton was tempted to write him a letter explaining the superiority of this convention, of politics to simple trade unionism, to negotiations of his local...urging him to go only if for a day or so...but decided not to on the basis of his obvious profound regret. Harry Noakes who possibly could have squeezed credentials was laid up with a bad leg. Oh Well. We will certainly be in there with the national convention. Burton assures us that he will be there.

Well the lack of coverage in the last issue, and I think we can say that there is in light of the prominence we have given the struggle in B.C. over the past several months, is more or less unavoidable. I think we have used just about all we could from the clippings...to more we really needed an idea of how the debate went on around the arms manufacture ban resolution. We can write this up with our analysis for the next issue. Could you wring out of Alex everything you can, pick up the resolutions, still see Bray, Young etc.

The April 12 issue of CCF Nws has just come in-----have taken a rapid skip thro it. I see there was a lot of talk about returning to Woodsworth. I have been thinking for some time of the advisability of the paper carrying some material on the Woodsworth-CCF switch from the pacifist Regina Manifesto in 1939...what lessons pacifism has for the Canadian and CCF workers. Think it might be a good idea for the next issue. But on the basis of what you can get us, the Pentiction document etc perhaps you have some much better ideas.....I would prefer if we had something to say right on the convention--its resolutions etc. And then we could take up the Woodsworth idea in the June issue. This would leave us the July issue to plot out the path for the 26-27-28 convention.

I am very curious to know how you explain the thumping defeats sustained by Cameron, particularly in the face of the Young victory and the general political victory of what I would say were ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Cameron's ideas. What did Cameron speak on at the convention and what stands did he take. Does slander and status enter here. After all Young has been more labelled a Trotskyist than Cameron

Received a rather bitter letter from Eve Smith, I suppose substantially what she told you on the phone. Not as bad as her one of a few years ago... ~~XXXXX~~ gather we

Wingman McPherson

mean well... "You people should take a course in elementary political strategy and try to develop a little political sense." I think I will write her a letter in reply this time. I gather Young and co. think that pacificism is a half way house to the position of revolutionary defeatism. No doubt they make all kinds of rationalization ---no one is ready to listen to your stuff etc. They and their left wing. I'll bet they haven't got 10 people that hold any one idea in common. They haven't even got the energy to work up any contacts---Burton tells us that he wrote O'Brien who said that Young would contact him but that was the last word. You know how many subs that last issue turned up15 or 16 so far. Quite a response eh-what. I would give your eye teeth to get a list of CCFers in Vancouver. You know that list of left wingers that you sent us did not turn up one sub---they all came from outside points from the CCF News lists and a few that we found in the Sask Commonwealth. From what I see they (Smith) haven't even got their fingers on the left---what they appear to have is a bunch of worn out jaded old timers, pretty hardened centrists with the greatest resistance to our paper and its ideas---but there is a left and it is of considerable extent.

A few more observations on the convention vote. I see that Cameron's vote is practically the vote of the resolution on war. He was defeated for all three posts. I would seem then that he is looked upon as the leftist....of course he has been of the more fundamentally critical of the present CCF policy than anyone else. But how does Young get his 56. I see he ran against a trade unionist. Has this any meaning for us. From the press reports it was he who sparked the resolution but he rallies twice as many votes. What did Cameron get when he ran against Jamieson for first vice-president. I would appreciate it if you could give us a detailed picture from what you can gather from Young, Alex etc.

Received a letter from Angus the other day in which he states that no one from PR will be able to attend a convention in the East this year. Unfortunately he does not give any reasons, whether it is the problem of finances, inability to get holiday time around the month of September which we had provisionally suggested or just total inability to get away this year at any time. I will write him a few days. Could you give me an idea of the situation in Vancouver in your next letter so that we can go ahead in making the precise arrangements.

Murray and Jean were in town on the easter week-end. We had a very fruitful discussion on the convention, the necessary documentation and so forth. Will be writing some of the details up for a monthly letter in a few days but hope to get the next bulletin out before hand. It will have another piece of junk by Coarède Rose with a short three page reply by myself, with the letter from the IS on ~~COMMUNISM IN CANADA~~ ~~the CCF~~

I suppose I should have sent the preceding part of this letter off long ago---here it is one week later before I am able to pick it up again

We have been busy getting out the internal bulletin and what else I cannot for the life of me now recall. Sent off the bulletin to Court this morning. You will note that it contains amongst other things the convention call, even in all its indefiniteness. Angus hasn't written any further and I haven't yet raised the question of what they would not be able to come down. Have you taken the question of representation up with the Vancouver branch yet? If so what is the score. You know if it is just not possible for ~~more~~ more than one comrade to come East probably the best thing we could do would be to hold a West Coast regional conference where there could be a detailed discussion on the questions confronting us and votes could be taken and then to send one comrade East to an Eastern regional convention. But of course I am hoping that we can get at least two comrades down here.

The documents that I mention the N.C. has taken upon itself to present to the convention were agreed upon with Murray and Jean while they were in Toronto on the Easter week-end---we will be doing well to get them out let alone taking on any others which I know we really should have.

Are you in a position to write anyone of them—say the trade union one. If you are not able to do so I think we will be able to squeeze it.. ...and if you are now pretty certain that you will be unable how would you like to go through your files for all the former SWP trade union resolutions that I sent you about a year ago when we were planning to put out such a resolution....they will be of considerable aid to me.

Say is there anything we can do about stirring up some protest on the arrest of our German comrades . As soon as I get this away I am going to sit down and whip up a press release for the press in the hope that they may take it up. I have already contacted the secretary of the Association for Civil Liberties here and am to see him on Thursday. This is a civil rights outfit, a respectable one supported by the CCF and various liberal elements. It is quite inactive and appears to be so far just a collection of prominent names however I am going to see what can be done. The Stalinist civil rights outfit had a conference here last week-end but they had nothing on the agenda on international labor defence so we had no handle to work with. Is there an civil rights movement out there that you could contact...all the dope we have is in the April issue of the paper.

Received a letter from Burton the other day...he managed to get away to the convention for one day. I gather he managed to put some spunk into the left. He thinks that they could have done much much better than they did if there had been any leadership and if the left had had any guts. He says that "I was pretty disappointed I must admit as a whole in the convention. Just for the lack of a fighting attitude on the part of both the "Left" and the Mine Mill group, we lost battle after battle that could have been won...." He has sent us the resolutions so that if you manage to pick up a copy you ~~XXX~~ can keep it there for study. Haven't had a chance to go through it. Not much in his letter other than a few interesting but unimportant observations on this person and that . Cameron defended the lack of cohesion of the left with the excuse that it was "democratic and flexible." Burton sent us the membership of the CCF in Trail. He is being force into the organizing of a new club as the old one appear to be ~~supposedly going to the grave~~ dead and hopelessly in the hands of the right. He thinks he can get away with it.

There were several other matters that I wanted to take up but will write later. Now I am anxious to hear from you as to what you think the situation is with our convention and West Coast attendance.

When you reply to this would you also give me an idea as to how you think we should handle a sub campaign this spring. I am in favor of starting one on a national basis on May 15th and ~~XXXXXX~~ extending till June 15th. Is Vancouver tied up, would they prefer to set their own month at some other time, if so when. Is a month ~~XXXXXX~~ long enough...I favor it but it would mean a really concentrated effort. What do you think

comradely

Ross

April 25, 1950 ✓

Vancouver Branch Executive

Dear Comrades:

I have noted from your minutes of March 2nd your request that comrade Fergusson be transferred to the status of member at large. We assume this is due to his inability to maintain contact with the branch because of the nature of his job (travelling.)

Would you inform us if the following address is still correct---1896 West 1st Ave.

There are one or two questions that the N.O. would like some guidance from you on. The details of the problem are familiar to Comrade Bullock but I am drawing the questions to your attention so that they will not be overlooked.

National Convention; Is it possible for comrades to arrange to attend the convention we are holding this fall in Toronto...possible not from the point of view of funds but availability. As you can imagine it would mean being free for almost 10 days counting travelling time, etc.) What representation could the party hope to expect? As you can imagine if no representation is possible it would be necessary to make drastic revisions of our plans, to possibly hold much less satisfactory regional conferences, etc. What date would be preferable, spanning a week-end?

The Arrest Of Our German Comrades; Would the branch investigate the possibility of approaching civil liberties associations etc to protest this Stalinist police terror demanding our comrades release etc. Details are in the April issue of the paper.

Subscription Drive; Would the executive give the N.O. its opinion on the most satisfactory time for this year's sub drive from the point of view of the activities of the Vancouver branch. We are suggesting a one month ~~campaign~~ every intense campaign starting May 15th and ending June 15th. Possibly Vancouver would prefer more time and a different date. Would you give us your opinion

Correspondence; In the past few months mailings of sample copies of Labor Challenge have been turning up a considerable number of subscriptions in B.C. We have made it a practice to attempt to follow up with correspondence. Those subs that have come in from Vancouver or Prince Rupert (few because we had few addresses in those localities) have been turned over to the branches without any attempts on our part to follow up. We assume the branches in question take upon themselves this job. These subscribers residing some distance from our branches are at present remaining in the hands of the N.O. to follow up. Probably the comrades are familiar with A. Burton with whom the N.O. is in contact and has been accepted as a member at large by the N.C. It would seem to us to be desirable that Vancouver maintain ^{certain} contact with such comrades as Burton of Trail ~~as they are turned up from time to time~~, particularly since Vancouver is such a ~~NKK~~ center of B.C. and would generally be immersed in the same work as these new comrades we will gain from time to time in the rural areas. It would seem to us that we are still far from being in a position ~~from~~ setting up any kind of B.C. District apparatus, we have neither the staff in Vancouver to handle such responsibilities nor sufficient contact to make it necessary but possibly a move in this direction could be made by the Vancouver branch keeping in close contact with let us say Burton. Comrade Bullock has borrowed our correspondence file with this comrade. ~~PURCHASING COPY FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE OF THE LABOR CHALLENGE~~

Comradely

APR 99

Dear Comrade Ellaline;

A little gossip that I think you (and George) might be interested in.

From the American N.C. minutes;

"Information received that Haston, Millie Lee, and Nosedá have resigned from the British movement and "declared in favor of reformism and against the revolutionary party and its program."

Jones(???) stated that at the time it occurred, he considered the "deviation on Stalinism" which earlier led a member of the top British committee to go over to Stalinism was at bottom not a Stalinist deviation but a Social Democratic deviation in preparation for capitulation to the Labor Party in Gr.Br.

I suppose you see the excellent work that the rest of the British comrades are doing in Socialist Outlook? Does the B.C. left circulate this paper. Our comrades in the CCF can make terrific use of Outlook, so legal and yet so Trotskyist(the edits which we write)

Havent heard anymore about our excellent contact that was taking the bundle of papers into his logging camp.

~~RECEIVED BY THE BUREAU OF THE B.C. LEF~~

COMRADELY

Ross

May 1, 1950 ✓

Dear Reg;

How did the May Day meeting turn out? The comrades wanted to hear someone else for a change so this year managed to get Buffalo to supply us with a speaker. We had a very good meeting despite the rather small attendance of about 13 or 14, quite inspiring

This is just a short note to ask you if you have anything for this issue of the paper, IWA etc.

The deadline is Next Monday morning.....would you drop me a line in the next 24 hours to let me know whether we are to expect anything or not. At the same time would you tell me if you have anything ~~EX~~ more on the CCF Pentticon convention. We are already planning to write an article on their position on war, an analysis and ~~EX~~ if Alex or Roger Bray had anything more than what you sent ~~it~~ would you send it along with the above letter or let us know when to expect it.

Will probably write further in a few days at the latest.

Would you send the enclosed on to Angus as soon as you can.

I think the last bulletin closes of the pile of crap on the bureaucratic tendency. Hope it did not upset anyone in the branch.

warmest regards

Saturday May 12th, 1950 ✓

Dear Reg,

Just a line ... I am working on the paper...way behind this issue as we took last week-end trying to do our best on the Stalinist National Congress of their Peace movement. Also worked a day last week for a boss—more on this later—have to get off the payroll by working a part time job about two days a week as our income just covers the cost of putting out the paper itself the last month or so...scraping the barrel.

I see that there is a B.C. Congress being held of the Peace movement...it was announced in the Pacific Tribune. I propose that the branch send one or two comrades down as delegates. I managed to get the platform at their Toronto rally. Of course I was in a much more favourable position having run for mayor and being known but I think it is possible that you might get the platform out there....at least no harm do you cant represent the party—they dont accept party representatives—represent the paper. I would like to tell you how we made out here but dont want to take the time right now—we did get a mixed reception...came out strongly for Yugoslav this is where we got our first hostile reaction but at the close there was considerable applause besides boos. Unfortunately they blackballed us—prevented anyone from coming around to talk with us. We also distributed the paper with the leaflet sticking out of it. They really tried to stop us...knocked the papers out of one comrades hands. However we had seven comrades out and held our own. Despite their appeals to persons not to take the paper and leaflet we managed to distribute about 500. I only had five minutes on the platform—they wouldnt let Barry speak and we did not raise any hell about it since they let me speak. If they dont let you speak I think you should raise hell from the floor...they are really trying to make it appear to be a genuine front following Pearson's blast.

Is there still time for you to tell me whether you want leaflets..if there isn't you could run it off out there on a mimeograph...the conference takes place 26,7,8 May We did a distribution at the Windsor rally but havent received news yet of its affect.

What about the Yugoslavs in Vancouver? Is there anyway we can manage to make contact with them. I am enclosing SWP minutes which show progress in US? Would you raise this with the branch

You are mistaken when you say that Byron and his club are not wide open for expulsion. You did not see the resolutions submitted to the Pentiction Convention. Until yesterday I was going along with the same dream as you...but Barry was scanning the Pentiction resolutions yesterday and what do you think he came across---

Resolution No 50 page 14

Whereas socialism cannot conquer in a single country alone, but must be world wide, based on strong international ties of workers everywhere,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CCF affiliate with the Fourth International.
Sooke Club.

I think this explains why he writes "I was asked to write to Young for advise and to Reg, but not to Ross until more definite charges are laid and the trial date get..." I think I informed you that he had not written into us here for about 6 months—the first letter to break the long silence was an answer in answer to my plea that he should make every effort to get to the convention.

I am at a loss to understand why he submitted this resolution...as a matter of fact I was under the illusion that all the time he was out of contact with us he was totally inactive politically. He has never even whispered a suggestion that he was in disagreement in anyway with the line of Labor Challenge on the CCF....so I am inclined to believe that we have to put the submission of such a resolution down to political naivete. I am inclined to believe that it would be wrong for me to say anything about this letter from you with the information about possible expulsion until I hear from him ---it might make him shy off from writing you in confidence.

XX However I will write him and ask him about the resolution.

Of course we can fight the case but we ~~may~~ be hard put to get support. If we are expelled I hope we can come out with an RWP club...make the best of the situation even though it will certainly hurt future relations with the left and hamper our work generally. Perhaps they can reactivate the Cobble Hill club right into the RWP is things go that way. I had no idea that he had that kind of support in the club that he could pass such a resolution...why we should have had a party branch working as a CCF fraction long ago in that area. Could you make a trip over ~~000000000000~~ to Byr I think it is very necessary to make this trip just as soon as humanley possible. ~~Don't~~ not worry about the money---why I will work an extra day. If you cant make it then someone else has to go...I think it is absolutely necessary and as soon as we can make it.

comradely

Rosa

Did you get the bulletins yet? I know of course that they went out. I could swear that they went to Court as he is the literature agent if I am not mistaken. But Bill and Ballantine should be checked. These would not have burst open as they were wrapped flat with corrugates round them too. Would you let me know at once so if necessary I can send you replacements.

May 17, 1950 ✓

Dear Comrade Bray;

I am enclosing with this note that extremely valuable and fascinating book on the Winnipeg General Strike that you were so good to loan to me. ~~When~~ was it???, four or five years ago. booklet

Possibly you were wondering if you were ever going to get it back, and I must admit I was sorely tempted to add it to my already very good collection of revolutionary literature. I am fortunate in already having the two Trial pamphlets. I hope that you will find it in almost as good condition as when you lent it to me. I seem to recall that I put the scotch tape on the spine.

see

As you with this issue of Labor Challenge we have finally told the story of the strike. I hope we have done justice to the subject. Of course there is a lot left out that should be in. The pages of our paper are as yet terribly small. Maybe there is much left out that should be in even within our space limits.

What do you think of the article? I am very anxious to hear your opinion of it. Any criticism you may have to make of it. As a matter of fact I am sure that all the readers of Labor Challenge would get a great lift if when they open up the next issue they were to find something on this great event from the pen of one of its leading participants....along with his picture 1950.

I am sure that there are many anecdotes, incidents in your possession that through a great deal of insight into the strike. I know that the article ~~itself~~ is very weak in analysis of the significance of the strike, the role and influence of the various tendencies in the leadership, etc. I felt that the actual story itself is so completely unknown to the Canadian working class that the above all must be told. Labor Challenge would be indeed honoured if you would take it upon yourself to fill in the gaps.

Congratulations on the battle you put up at Pentticon

warmest comradely greetings

Ross Dowson

June 9, 1950 ✓

Dick Chester
1162 Bute St.,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Comrade Dick;

The comrades of the editorial board were more than pleased to receive your contribution to the paper. We have always been in desperate need of contributions ~~from~~ particularly from comrades in Windsor, Montreal and Vancouver. As yet we have not been able to build up a staff of contributors outside of Toronto who come across with any kind of regularity and without fervent pleas. And to be an effective party building paper, to truly reflect the needs of the branches we need those contributions.

So you can imagine the feeling of regret when we decided we could not publish your first contribution. Unfortunately Reg's article dealing with the IWA situation and which was a must for this issue covered the bulk of the material that you covered. It even had more of the material that you covered in its original form than it has in its printed form in the Mid-June issue but I was compelled to severely cut it when we were working on the stone at the print shop. You can I am sure appreciate the fact that our little paper cannot afford to duplicate material--in view of the thousands of important developments which we are compelled to let slip by without comment ~~due to~~ ~~the~~ shortage of space.

I am sure that it is a disappointment as you have obviously done some considerable work on it. And I can assure you that it is just as great a disappointment for us, particularly in view of the fact that in my opinion it is so good.

You know Dick, editors make a lot of 'enemies' through the exigencies of their work, having to or feeling the need to change this or that which the authro may think is a vertiable pearl, having to slash out this because of lay-out necessities, etc. Every writer, and every good writer quite correctly, thinks that his work, this paragraph, or that sentence is essential, absolutely correct, necessary the way it is etc. But the editor has to decide upon the picture as a whole. Sometimes the decision is hard to make, sometimes easy. Yours was hard to make on the basis that this is your first contribution and was such a good effort. Easy on the basis that we could not duplicate the material.

From now on in I am certainly looking forward to contributions from you pen. But what you should do before sitting down to write on anything that you think would be valuable for the paper is to get in touch with Reg. Bill was once the correspondent but I believe that Reg has taken it over. You see we try to get one article every issue from Montreal and one from Vancouver. There is probably no paper that is more carefully planned than ours. The editorial board meets about a week and a half before the deadline and I tell them what looks to me to be the most important developments across the country from all the reading of the CCF, LPP trade union papers that I do. They then decide what we want to cover. Ob

When this has been decided upon I write Reg in Vancouver, Jean in Montreal, and comrades in other points if I think they may have something and tell them what we think their contribution should be. Of course they may have something else in mind much more important, that they think should be covered. They inform me and I then make any adjustments necessary so that the paper will not be too heavily anti-CCF, anti-Stalinists etc

Often Reg is unable to spare the time to write an article---as a matter of fact this last one is the first one he has been able to handle for five or six months I think. So what you should do if you feel you have something hot, or you think you have time to take on an article is to get in touch with Reg, see what he is writing or what we have asked him for and he is unable to write. This way we can easily avoid the duplication that resulted this time.

Generally speaking we have not been asking the comrades in outside points to write feature material. We ask them for only the spot trade union material, local developments in the CCF, LPP etc and leave the feature material for Toronto, where we can have a more thorough discussion on the question and one or two of us can arrange ~~EXETER~~ to take out the time that such types of articles require. But I see no reason why if you think you have the time coming up you should not take ~~TIME~~ upon yourself to try a feature item. If you have any ideas let me know as I can probably supply you with material from our pretty good files.

Now that we know that there is another comrade in Vancouver who can and wants to write we are certainly expecting to get some material from time to time.

I see that ~~XXX~~ we are really doing a job out there with subs

with warmest regards

Ross Dowson

Dear Ellaline;

Dear Comrade Ellaline;

Glad to hear that the branch has the ~~XXXXXX~~ services of a projectionist in the person of Comrade Court. We have a couple of comrades here who can run movie machines and we have found a film night to be the most effective way of bringing contacts around to the party socialis. Unfortunately the American party(Pioneer Publishers) does not possess any films of its own other than the film that was taken off the convention when they nominated Dobbs and Carlson presidential candidates. We had it here and it is very good. It is silent but a script has been prepared that can be read with it. By all means get it, but arrange for another film too as it is fairly short. They will send it to you no charge except for express handling.

There are several film companies in the Us that have good films that would be really an attraction, such as Potemkin, Ten Days that Shook the World, Thunder Over Mexico. But our experiences have been very bad with them. You go batty worrying over whether they will get to you in time. You see they are rented out at quite a high rate. I think we had to pay ~~XXXXXX~~ about \$30 for From Czar to Lenin. You rent it for the one showing, I think that means 12 hours. The company that owned that was in Chicago, they shipped it air express, it had to go through the customs, the day it comes into the customs you have to clear it as you have to show it that night. I dont think it is worth the trouble until we ~~XXX~~ get larger and can afford to snap our fingers at the coast of renting it two nights to ensure that we get it. We had to call off a showing once of Potemkin as we did not get the picture through in time, there was some ball-up, I dont know what. And of course we had advertised it in the paper etc.

But there are about half a dozen very good pictures available through the National Film Society of Canada at Ottawa. I think the National Film board has ~~XXXXXXXX~~ dropped this type of service and it has been taken up by the Film Society. Its address is 172 Wellington St. They no doubt can supply you with a catalogue. Possibly they have an office in Vancouver, I would think that they have. They have one in Toronto. Some of their films they have on hand in their local offices, others you have to write to Ottawa for. However I am sure that Court must know all about this. Some of their films are stinkaroos, we always try to have a preview and have a comrade prepare a little talk on what is wrong with the film, or extend its message somewhat. But for all their short comings we have had about 6 of their films that were fairly good. Here are some of the better ones

Song of the People, United Action, Valley Town(excellent)
The City, The River, Man one Family,

There are some excellent ones on some phase of culture etc like the one called Totems(one the B.C. Indian Totems) which make for a rounded program when you show one of the above.

Sorry, but I cannot send you any copies of the leaflet distributed at the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Peace Congress. The stencils lasted till we turned off about another hundred for Windsor(they covered Endocott's meeting there)

then they just fell apart. And as you can appreciate it it is quite a job to retype them just to run off a dozen or so. We had quite a bit of trouble with that leaflet, not so much as you suppose, the meeting of a deadline, but saying what we thought necessary to say and getting it on one piece of paper for distribution. I never have seen a good mimeograph job done on both sides of the paper but we did not want to make a two sheet job. Then there was too much copy in it and we did not have room to make a decent layout, with the odd line drawing in it etc. One of the comrades wrote in suggesting we put it out as a pamphlet but unfortunately that costs money.

I suppose you noted that we upped your last quota of bulletins. I received your letter just prior to shipping the last SWP bulletin. I hope that the seven will do you. If not let me know. Who pays for them? Well I hope that the comrade who handles them has been collecting the amount on the cover for them all along. I assume this has been done. I have been expecting this comrade to forward the money collected to the office from time to time. I used to send bills about every third month. But it proved to little avail. ~~Regrettably~~ The comrades used to let it ride and the pressure of other work ~~just overwhelmed me~~ together with the lack of response caused me to cease bothering to send the bills. But for some reason, perhaps hope that comrades would meet this bill I have continued to keep track of how many of each bulletin was sent to each ~~branch~~ branch or comrade. One of the factors that ~~has~~ caused me to keep sending them out regardless of payment was that it forms one of the few contacts we are able to maintain with the various comrades, other than the paper and I did not want the possibility that the odd isolated comrades may be unable to afford them to stop him receiving them. So all this time the money going to the SWP national office for the ~~bulletins~~ bulletins that they send us has been coming from the RWP national office funds

I have assumed that part of the money that Ruth has been sending in on behalf of the branch ~~has~~ as sustaining has been money collected from the sales of internal bulletins. If this is not so and some other comrade has been collecting and holding the money would you have him send the money in immediately. I can easily prepare a bill for all the branches. As a matter of fact it might be a good idea to send them out again to see what response we get

By the way did the branch receive Vol II No 2 of our bulletins...the one with the letter from the International Secretariat advising CCF entry, and my reply to Joe Rose. Reg wrote me some time back that you hadn't received them. I believe that they were mailed to Court. I subsequently sent one copy to Reg. If the comrades have not seen this bulletin dated April would you write me at once.

Thanks for the information on the branch opinion of the possibility of holding a convention this year. I have circulated this information in all its detail amongst the N.C. members and following a little more discussion within the N.C. concrete decisions will be made. I will inform the branch of the decisions just as soon as we are able to do so

Too bad we were unable to do anything about the DeBunker article. They failed to publish a letter I sent to the editor in protest. Last week when asking them for an issue missing from our file I asked them if they would care to state why they did not publish the letter. Received the paper but no letter. It is my opinion that DeBunker's column would be one of the most read by workers columns in the paper. As a matter of fact some of them are quite good, particularly when they are straight anti-capitalist. That "very feeble line" would be a good one for Young and that gang to use so that they would feel able to evade the issue. I personally did not expect them to do anything but it is a

good idea when the occasion warrants it to put the pressure on them and

to let them know they are being watched by us.

Glad to see that you are working what angles there are to contact Yugoslavs. We have picked up a few names of Canadians who have written into the American Titoist paper. Unfortunately there are none outside of Ontario so far. If we come across more we will let you know. We are going to call around to see these Yugoslav, to offer to help them and to find out if we can aid them in setting up a nationwide movement etc. There is underfoot the gathering of a Youth Brigade to visit Yugoslavia this summer. I will let you have more on this within the next week.

Very sorry to have to put a cold douche again on the requests of the comrades for regular reports from the N.O. on national activities. I can only assure the comrades again that it is not that we do not appreciate the value of such a project and not that we do not desire to carry it out. At present it is just beyond our abilities to meet this demand. When I have been able to sit down and round up this material I have sent it out to the N.C. comrades as a sort of report to the N.C.. With N.C. members in each point except Windsor I assume that when this material is available that they have told the branch. We just don't have the apparatus. For the past year we have been pretty well staggering from one issue of the paper, the correspondence, the odd bulletin, to the next issue. As a matter of fact I have only just scratched preparation necessary to write one of the two documents that are necessary for the party's political work. We are back to one full timer again due to financial difficulties. This party builder bulletin is something which I am afraid we will have to wait for until we grow up a little more.

I wonder if you would remind Alex to send me some branch minutes- I don't believe we have received any for at least 4 months.

That was a good job we did non subs.

comradely

Ross Dowson

June 27, 1950 ✓

Dear Reg;

Bullock

Sorry to be so long in writing you.....but the sub campaign, the class I am giving on Marxian economics and the fact that Barry is working full time at Canada Packers and is thus pretty well out of the office seems to leave me little time.

I gather from Court's last letter and the very good total of subs that you have rolled up that things are quite good in the branch. (Alex hasn't sent in any branch minutes for god knows when) It appears that we have a couple of house-a- fires in Alex and Dick. Will certainly have to take up their suggestion of going down to the negro trainmen's union to see if we can sell any FI's or make contact.

Did Dick say anything to you about the article that he submitted for the last issue of the paper? It was quite good but unfortunately about 99 per cent of it was covered by your article so I did not feel that we could afford to publish it. I sent him a congratulatory letter---and an explanation of why it was not published, urging him to continue to write when able but to consult you in advance so that there would not be the duplication and waste. I hope he took it alright. I think he has considerable talent along this line and with a little encouragement and collaboration with you we might have our Vancouver correspondent in him.

Well that was one hell of a butcher job that I did with your IWA contribution. It was a good article that you turned in. I cut it down before going to the printer by the deletion of two paragraphs which I did not think essential but unfortunately when we came to working on the stone I found I had to take out another 10 lines. These, with the press waiting for me, were not taken out so judiciously. However I still think it is a good job. What do you think? I did not add anything as new developments took place 1) because we had no space for what there was let alone more; 2) the local press did not carry anything on developments out there. As a matter of fact I only learned of the settlement from this week's Tribune (Canadian Tribune) which tells us that its all due to Pritchett and the mighty WIUC. In ~~EMI~~ regard to your suggestion that the office might take a sub to The Vancouver Sun. A good idea in so far as keeping up with West Coast news but by God I absolutely refuse to read another paper. I spend hours now trying to keep up with the 5 CCF papers the 2 Stalinist papers, the union papers, the Toronto daily papers. Why there is a stack of Hansards here as tall as I am that I am supposed to read, the contract says so, and I haven't hardly touched. When it is essential I can always hop across the street to the Sun's Toronto office. I did this when the CCF convention was on. Their files are open and the girl in charge is not bad looking.

Hope you are cooking up something on your typewriter for the coming issue of the paper. You know we really need an article from you each issue to give the paper its correct national character. The dead line will be 10th-- Haven't had the editorial meeting yet but of course this issue will be the B.C. convention issue and it will certainly contain an article on the tasks confronting the delegates along with something else. Perhaps you comrades would prefer to prepare this material. If you would let us know as soon as possible. But even with that material we could well do with an analysis of the IWA settlement and the tasks ahead, particularly since the branch is so involved

in the IWA

and could put such an article to good use in distribution to wrk mates. Let me know what you plan to do.

Have you heard from Byron? We have received no reply to our letter. I hear from Rosslund that Young and his two fellow "Leftists" on the B.C. Provincial Council are preparing to fight his case. Young says that he is prepared "to make a principled defence of the right of any club to send any resolution whatsoever to the annual convention, this being the point of the right wing attack." So you see it is that resolution on the Fourth that is the issue. Hope you can manage to get something from Byron before the convention and send it on to me. Probably Young could tell you the score.

Rosslund tells me that Eve Smith and coy have managed to get out some kind of a bulletin called "Material for Thought" I gather that it is not correctly speaking an internal CCF bulletin but a step in that direction. Some fellow by name of Ed Olson put it out....and hopes in the near future to get something out more along the lines of an internal bulletin. Rosslund is going to contribute to that. He has been unable so far to get a copy for us. Have you seen it and could you send us along a copy as soon as possible. Probably Young would be good for that too

Have you managed to get around for a talk with Young and Cameron or Bray since the convention? We could really go for another scoop for the B.C. national convention like the one we had for the provincial convention. Do you think any of them would be wanting to contribute to the paper. And anyrate we could well do with a long discussion with them on recent developments, what they see to be the tasks and possibilities so that we could really do an effective job in the next issue.

I returned Roger's book on the Winnipeg strike along with a freindly letter asking him if he would like to make some comments on the article in the May issue for our ~~XXXXXX~~ letters to the editor column. I have received no reply. Eve Smith send us a long letter last month in reply to my note to her. She wants us to turn IC into "an educational sheet, not so many personalities, and for heaven's sake less of the stalinist phraseology." I gather she would like us to carry on an analytical survey of world affairs but not to draw any political and above all organizational conclusions. What a character. She is afraid for Rosslund. She writes him "I do hope you will remain in the CCF and not go off to any splinter group. Times are changing, and there is a nucleus of us that still have hope for the CCF. I see no hope for the Fourth International. I know a lot about them, and we can discuss them when you come down. Believe me I have many doubts, and have had from time to time. It may be hopeless, but what could we gain, or socialism gain, by anthar splinter? A sad sad case. That was a vicious little article she wrote against revolutionary marxism a while back in the CCF News. She is a natural for the Shachtmanites.....a hardened Kautskian.

Not going to say much on the discussion we are carrying on about the convention. Jean came in over the week end and gave me Murrays and his viewpoint. Havent heard from Angus. Jean and Murray and I are agreeable to our going ahead here in the east with a conference as suggested and that then one of us go out to the West Coast on a trip and to attend whatever we can get together as a conference out there at this specified time. They agree with you on ~~XXXXXX~~ Angus' proposal re Rose. As a matter of fact Jen is red hot against it as in his opinion it would only look like an endorsation of all

~~the buttoner has been~~

of Rose's campaign. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ The truce still holds here. The situation is much better in the branch with Rose ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ having hung himself in so far as the bulk of the comrades are concerned. Being the focal point of all the furor I find it rather hard to appreciate any comrades becoming sympathetic to Rose from the bulletin contributions. I thought that my contribution was the very least that one could say in the light of such slander and abuse. In so far as Brent's contribution was concerned, well you cant fight howitzers with bow and arrows. I did not think it was overdone in view of the monstrosity of the Rose article. However the fact that some comrade thought so is very interesting to me

You know a few years ago Tom and Lloyd held a certain hatred for me. I never ever did understand it very clearly. I put it down to what I thought was a certain dislike for centralism which flowed from their unfortunate experiences in the CP, a certain hatred for the East, a belief that they were the only persons able to take positions on trade union problems, ~~they were the~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ a conception ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ they had that the party in the East was peopled with petty bourgeois, or ex petty bourgeois who could never take a correct position as the proletarians on the West Coast could. I did not think it was personal but only revealed itself in a personal way.

I wonder if sometime in the near future when you are not very busy you would sit down and tell me what it is all about. This facetious observation about transferring the leading cadres to the West Coast for a session on the green chains with the IWA fraction. Its a kill or cure porcess." You know there is nothing in this petty bourgeois east business. Rose has a petty bourgeois background and tendency but who says he is any part of the leading cadre --- ~~if~~ he just has a lot to say. Brent has a petty bourgeois background but that is all, he has broken completely from it and shows no signs of it. I dont know who can have a more proletarian background than I have and who can be less petty bourgeois in orientation than I. The rest of the branch in Toronto is completely proletarian, true much of it is not in heavy industry but due to the character of Toronto industry this is no fault of theirs. Vancouver is no less nor no more petty bourgeois or proletarian than Toronto....as for Windsor, completely proletarian. You know all the petty bourgeois deserted the Canadian party. That petty bourgeois East line is pure unadulterated crap and a Joe Rose slander against the party...a phoney attempt to rationalize ~~his~~ his failure to win support

I know that a leadership in the course of its daily duties must inevitably step on toes. Particularly when the leadership is small and above all appears to be centralized in one persons being does it run the risk of creating misunderstandings, hurting feelings, treading on toes and developing hostility towards itself. At anyrate in the past I have written all this stuff off along the line of the above. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ I may be wrong but I interpret Angus proposal as a form of support of some kind to Rose's line, as a feeling of unease about the titular leadership....the same with the reaction of some of the Vancouver comrades to the bulletin. As a matter of fact I have been thinking for sometime now that it might be advisable for Murray to take over the nation office for a period and I go into industry again. I know Murray doesn't want to and I am convinced that it would be a meaningless action but nonetheless it might be of some ~~XXXXXX~~ value. What do you think

At anyrate I find it hard to see comrades reacting violently to the Brent document, yes even its phraseology in the light of the two Rose documents and the astounding information that Brent brings out about Rose which he does not refute but only get mixed up in other more ludicrous charges and slanders.

Knowing the comrades who became sympathizers of Rose ~~through the same medium~~ and the feeling that I have that we must dismiss the language, the vitriol as being very key, I wonder if you would sometime at your ~~leisure~~ leisure (joke) expand on this question.

Will be writing the N.C. the details on the convention discussion I had with Jean, who reported Murray's opinions.

Skipping through your letters to pick up odds and ends;

Glad to see that Charley is still hanging on and is giving what hand he is able. I was wondering what happened to him after the to do in the last shop he was in. Is Stanton inactive in the IWA? What have we if anything in the CCF now. Is Charley a member and if so what has he been able to do? Is Alex a members or has he just taken on himself to move in CCYM circles, selling the paper there asking questions, trying to turn up something from the outside? That was an amazing comment by Weaver that they wrung out. I was trying to think of some way to use it for the paper but for the life of me can see how. What the hell can the old revolution by capitalist consent propagandist mean, is he despairing, or loosing his mind, surely he can be coming our way.

We now have a nice little fraction of three in the CCYM and are contemplating adding another. Work is of course very slow, the group is poor, but we are in a new group and in a sense building it. The secretary of the group is now labelled a Trotskyist and we have made contact with two other promising elements. Unfortunately our comrades are inexperienced in this delicate type of work however this is the way we will train them. I am going to get one of the comrades to take a stab at reporting on this work for the next bulletin. Our CCF work is dead as the CCF is totally inactive or almost so. One bright spot which we will be reporting in the paper is the meeting of TLC? CCL trade unionists recently who had an exploratory talk on forming a solid front to put labor reps in City Hall. About 50 turned out, set up and executive and struck off our Comrade Bert Groves as chairman. We have been trying for sometime now to consolidate a progressive group in the AFL council ~~around the CCF delegates~~ out of the ~~many~~ CCF delegates who are very numerous but totally unorganized.

Did the branch ever get its copies of the last Cdn bulletin?the one with my reply to Rose and the IS stand on the CCF? I sent you a single copy but have not yet heard if you managed to locate the bundle that was sent out as I said before I think to Court.

Didn't use your editorial suggestion----a good one but I had already turned the material for the ones that appeared to a comrade who is taking a serious stab at being a writer and he had already worked on the one that we could have dumped; Besides it was easier for me to give him the material and the approach without him feeling I was writing the thing myself.

It is good to see that you have built up such prestige in the IWA within such a short time, fourth highest vote out of 15. Regrettable that we did not have a strike on our hands so you could show your stuff and come up with something. Suppose everything is fairly quiet, everyone satisfied, no doubt the district officers salary boost will go through easily I suppose we will have to wait a while before it really begins to pay off in party chips.or are there any advanced workers moving our way.

~~XXXX~~ Wrote into NY a few weeks ago to find out what was doing with the Friends of New Yugoslavia in Canada, if they had any really good contact with Canadian sympathizers of the paper Novi Mir that we could contact etc. Warde wrote me that the organization has only really consolidated anything in New York. No doubt you read about their meeting there. Elsewhere it is in embryo but he picked some names of Canadian workers who have written into Novi Mir and has expressed support of the Yugoslav CP. Unfortunately there were none outside of Ontario. Have sent the Windsor comrades the names in that city and told them to go around to talk to them see if we can give them any help distributing their material amongst Croats etc. Haven't heard anything yet. ~~Working~~ There were a couple of names in Hamilton which I will drop in on this week-end if possible. There were a couple in Toronto and we are working the angles to approach them under the most favourable conditions. Will let you know what comes.

Today received a copy of a letter sent out in the US about a Youth Brigade going to Yugoslavia late this July for a month or so. The boat is leaving from New York and anyone between the age of 18 to 30 generally sympathetic to Yugoslavia, connections with minority groups, trade unions, fraternal working class organizations is invited. Have to pay fare to NY and back and are expected if possible to pay \$325 boat fare, everything in Yugoslavia to be looked after by Yugoslav youth movement. For two weeks they will work on construction jobs, for ten days they will tour the country then return to their homes to tell the truth about Yugoslavia and counteract the Stalinist slander campaign. The letter says ability to pay is not a condition for participation as the Friends of New Yugoslavia is raising a fund to subsidize passage of those unable to pay part or any.

I have been thinking for sometime that it would be extremely valuable if one of our comrades or I suppose a couple could go. Yugoslavia is going to be a big issue in the Canadian labor movement and it would be good if we had someone who could become a specialist on it and possibly make tours, hold meetings etc. I have been talking it over with Barry and he is warm to the idea. I wonder if one of our more able young comrades in Vancouver would be able and would want to go. Of course you can learn only a limited amount when you can't speak the language but it would be a terrific experience and might prove invaluable. You might think it over and possibly feel one or two comrades out. We of course would have to make some dickerings as we have no funds and the New Friends don't exist here yet in any organized sense. Therefore it should be some comrade of ability, who can or can learn how to speak, who can mix, get around, learn and upon his return ~~possibly~~ play a role in organizing the movement next year when they expect big things.

I should have some more on this within the week

Would you thank Ruth for the last couple of money orders she has sent in. I see I must have sent out the receipts. Meant to write her a dozen times. Will see that the papers are sent out better. How did the last ones arrive?...with the gum tape reinforcement. I suppose we should up the next issue a couple of hundred so you can cover the CCF convention, eh! Thank here for the O Northington renewal in New Westminster. I gather the address is Stratford Ave. That sub was already good till no 96 but added another 12 onto it. Well I hope you committed some worthwhile offense to warrant that \$300 dollar crack from the strong arm of the law

comradely

Friday July 7, 1950 ✓

Dear Reg; *Bullock*

I am enclosing along with two other documents a letter from the US concerning the organization of ~~AMERICAN~~ Youth Labor Delegation that is to be organized to send young workers and students to Yugoslavia. X

At this time I know no more than what is contained in this letter-- that the first boat load is leaving New York July 25 etc. In the last week in Hamilton and Toronto we have contacted Yugoslav Canadian Titoists to try to spark the formation of a Friends of Yugoslavia movement here and to see if we could not get a couple of Canadian worker-students off in this first boat load. Obviously it would be ~~XX~~ very valuable to have one of the brigadiers a Trotskyist for it is these brigadeers who will be the organizers of future brigades and will certainly be a real contact with the very extensive Yugoslav Canadian working class. Unfortunately what appears to be the key man in this area amongst the Canadian Yugoslavs gave us a very cool reception. I am of the opinion that it will not be able to make any kind of working connection with them unless from amongst the few names we have picked out of their paper Novi List we find a really good element or until the Legation or the American developments providing an inspiration start them to attempt to bring the case of Yugoslavia before the Anglo Canadian working class

Incidentally we have not come across any names from Vancouver, as a matter of fact a Hamilton Yugoslav, the only one that was friendly told us they had only one subscriber in Vancouver. I did not ask him for it as I did not want to frighten them off

In the meantime however I have written the SWP explaining to them the low level of development amongst the Canadian Yugoslavs and asking them if we cannot through them or some other channel try to get at least one of our comrades on this coming brigade trip. I am writing to you before receiving a reply for time is very short, by the time a comrade got his passport etc.

What I would like you to do is to raise this matter in the branch for the information of the comrades who must of course be instructed to keep this information to themselves for the time being and to find if there is not some comrade who would like to go. I don't know what financial arrangements will be necessary but the comrade should have a couple of hundred dollars, his bus fare to NY would be 90 return alone. This will give the comrades a chance to think it over etc so that when we get the word we can go right into action. It might be a good idea for one of the comrades to write to the Yugoslav legation right away to enquire about this project he has heard rumours about. Ottawa should be sufficient address. It would be a terrific experience for a comrade not only from a political point of view but from a personal point of view. Would'nt mind going myself.

Probably we should not wait for a branch meeting but contact the two or three comrades you think might be available and desirous of going.

Will write later.... ~~There will be a meeting but the date is uncertain and will be written later~~

- 30 -

July 18, 1950 ✓

Dear Reg-

Bullock

Just a hurried line .

Sent you three hundred copies of the paper. Lots more here on hand Is that enough to cover the CCF convention thoroughly? If it isn't send me a line in the next mail and I will send as many more as you like. I think they should still make Vancouver in time if you let me know in the next mail.

I think that the CCF article is not bad and should get a fair reception. How do you intend to distribute. At the CCL conventions etc that are held in hotels we have followed the practice of going in when the delegates are at lunch and putting a copy of the paper in each delegates seating place, amongst his copies of resolutions etc. I am sending in the next mail a mimeographed subscription blank appeal which I think should be inserted in each copy of the paper. When the comrades come to put them in tell them to be sure to see that each one is mimeographed on as sometimes the machine lets the odd one slip through

I am sending you the latest correspondence with Rosslund so that you can sort of prepare yourself for some very rounded discussions with him. My impression is that he seems to be a little lost in the battle with the CCFright and the Stalinists but nothing that a series of good discussions cannot straighten up. I am sure that the Vancouver branch will make an excellent impression on him. I have never posed the idea but I sometimes wonder if it would not be possible for some young and able comrade from Vancouver to move to Trail. You know this comrade Rosslund is a house ~~MAZDA~~ a fire. Has terrific connections, prestige, but he really needs some aid. Of course the comrade who would go to Trail to live and work would have to be ~~REX~~ an able one in order to help him. Don Barland would go I think but he is not stable enough. My young brother who tends to be a trifle confused but is a very devoted comrade is talking about going west, I am suggest it to him. The other angle would be to pull Rosslund out and send him to Van but it would be a pity to break all the valuable connections he has formed. Of course if he picks up one or two good worker's militants all the problem will be solved and we will be heads taller nationally. Of course what we really need is a connection with him, the mail is very poor and leads to misunderstandings quite easily. Well he plans to be in Vancouver for a considerable time.

Needless to say Labor Challenge is expecting a terrific and detailed report and analysis of the CCF Convention and expect that Vancouver office will send its most competent staff member--ship us all memorandum, resolutions leftist bulletins etc.

Got a short letter from Byron the gist of which I quote in Rosslund's letter. Has he written you, Is he going to the convention. We will have to get him to eat a little humble pie

I am enclosing a receipt for Ruth. Would you ask her what the score is on the IS international financial appeal. I would like to close it off. So far we have sent \$90

warmest regards

Ross

July 20, 1950

Dear Reg;

Another short note for information please. Never seem to do anything in correspondence with you the past while but send out short notes.

The other day we received a copy of a resolution from the Vancouver branch on the N.C.'s convocation for the convention...the gist of it is as you know that the convention should be postponed till spring.

~~CONFIDENTIAL AND UNCLASSIFIED~~ As you know we have been moving ahead with the project but with the belief that a convention in the real sense of the word is excluded ---we have substituted plans to ~~EN~~ hold two conferences one in Van and the other in Toronto. Murray will be available to go to the Vancouver conference right after the Toronto one and I was toying with the idea of tape recording the most important of the Toronto proceedings.

Of course this would not be as satisfactory as a convention but in my opinion the best substitute that could be arranged. It is questionable that we would be able to hold a convention, that is one with anything like proper representation, for a long time. One of the main things these rallies could do would be to permit us to correct the situation as to the N.C. and P.O. As far as the time for these conferences...we could be pretty flexible. I was figuring late fall-October-November. This would mean that there is still plenty of time for the convention material to be put out, circulated within the branch and discussed.

The Vancouver branch turns thumbs down on this arrangement with its proposal favouring the postponement of the convention at least until Spring.

So what I want to know is this----the resolution gives reasons why it is not possible for any comrade to leave Vancouver at present- Waht will the situation be this Spring. I assume that it will be different, that some comrades will be available. Is this definite or just a feeling that things might be more favourable for this. The way this suggestion appears in the resolution I get the feeling that it is merely a hope that things will be more favourable, a reaction to the unfavourable situation now.

If this is really so would you let me know ~~KK~~ because if there is nothing really quite definite in view I can that we are going to be faced with the same situation all over again, when Spring comes. As a matter of fact we may well be in a worse position, probably Murray will not be available at that time.

I hope to get the CCF document out by the end of next week

Would you answer this letter just as soon as possible as I would like to wind up the discussion on this question that we have been carrying on and announce an N.C. decision to the party. The resolution as that it be made known to all the branches. I have read it to the Toronto branch. The branch was unable to make any recommendation for the above reason given---what is going to happen this Spring?

comradely

Rosa

July 27, 1950 ✓

Dear Cort;

I see you sent the last letter with the very fine total of \$50 in the typical Vancouver Branch style---the letter is dated July 31 and I received it on the 26th ---Terrific---on par with the enclosed clipping.

You will see from the clipping enclosed that your distribution at the pre-convention meeting of Coldwell was a tip top affair. The entire speech ~~in the meeting~~ is an attack on the left. The special reference to the Trotskyists in this sense is really significant. A real tribute to the correctness of our political orientation towards the CCF. How did you make out with the Vancouver press

Send us any clippings that mention us. The comrades got a real thrill from your work

Sorry to have forgotten the receipts. They have been lying in the basket but I have just not gotten around to dropping you this line.

Thanks again for the newsy account of Vancouver sub experience very valuable for the rest of the party to hear about. We lean one on another...just temporarily

warmest greetings

Ross Dowson

July 31, 1950

Dear Reg;

Bullock

Thanks for the clippings. I suppose Cort showed you the press we got in the Toronto Star...Coldwell's specific reference to us and the report of the bureaucrats calling the cops. Excellent.

Well the Coldwell crew are really putting the screws to the left. From the way they went at it, the attack on Eve Smith, on Cameron and the demonstrative move ~~AGAIN~~ to revise the Regina Manifesto, it looks as if they meant this convention to be the showdown. No doubt their conduct has shocked the CCF rank and file. Certainly must have been a startling experience for old amn Winch, Eve Smith etc.

What has been the left's reaction to this extreme onslaught?

Have you had a chance to see Rod Young and Cameron for a probe since the fireworks. I have been thinking it over the last day or so. Is it not possible that Young, Cameron, Smith and coy might pull out of the CCF to set up some autonomous B.C. reformist grouping based on the ~~EEK~~ Regina Manifesto? Coldwell's onslaught was certainly designed to either drive them out into inactivity or to provoke them into some such action. The CCF has now ditched officially its last pretense of being a socialist movement. As Winch said "no matter what the party did or what resolutions it passed so long as that document (the Regina Manifesto) stands we are safe." The left doesn't look at the CCF as we do, as the mass movement of the Canadian working class in the political field, but from an ideological point of view. The CCF has officially rejected their ideology and it is possible that many of them will then consider that the CCF represents nothing for them. So I am wondering if the left is not or has not already possibly decided to break away from the CCF. No doubt they could take out a sizeable chunk from the B.C. section. If they do so I think we should immediately consider the possibilities of such a development for us. We should of course oppose such a development but the decision does not rest with us. If they carry out such an action I am convinced that we should hop in with them. They would have no real perspective but all the ferment that has been churning up the B.C. section will be drawn off into such a movement and would provide us with a first rate field of operations. With our hardened little cadre in Vancouver, Rosslyn etc we could gather a real sizeable group around us.

If the left does not carry out such an action no doubt the assault that it suffered will drive it towards organization ~~XX~~. The really serious character of the differences and their implications must have been made clear to everyone. There will be widespread repercussions from the convention in the CCF above all in B.C. I hope that you were able to bring Byron closer towards working with the party. I suppose you read his Korean resolution and were able to have a really rounded discussion on our CCF work with Rosslyn. Boy if we only had a powerful fraction in the CCF now. Terrific opportunities

Right now I am in the midst of writing a document on the CCF---the case for entry in B.C. and increased fraction work elsewhere with the perspective of entry. Feel awfully frustrated ~~the~~ writing such a document now when things are really popping. Of course if the left carries out a split as I think possible, this question for B.C. will take on great immediacy, and we won't have to bother coming to a really precise evaluation of entry or non entry. I am convinced we would have to get in with them, give them a hand and see that we come out many heads taller.

By the way I am very anxious to know the score on the possibility of holding the convention as Vancouver suggests this coming Spring. As you know Murray, Jen and I want to go ahead with the conferences unless we can get some kind of insurance that this spring recommendation will not just result in ~~the~~ postponing a convention to some indefinite period in the future. Would you let me know so that we can settle this question as soon as possible.

Very anxious to hear ~~the~~ your evaluation of the CCF convention. The deadline is August 7th for all your material. We are ready to turn most of the paper over to the convention. Would very much like to get anything from the leftists that they may care to submit.

Will write shortly

comradely

Ross

August 16, 1950

Dick Chester
1162 Bute Street
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Dick

Thanks for all the material on the CCF convention, you certainly are the ideal correspondent---~~EXTRAORDINARY~~ at most there could be said to be only one thing missing---we could have done with a photo of the convention floor or something of the convention. I don't recall seeing any in the clippings that you sent but it is a good thing to know that newspapers will give you mats of photos that they have run on request or for a small amount of money. You know the photos we ran in the issue on the Stalinist ~~XXXXXX~~ break from the IWA. Well the Sun gave them to me for nothing when I went around to see them. Anytime you see a photo that you think might be useful for the paper it would be a good idea if you have time to pick up a mat made from it.

I am enclosing a copy of the paper. You will note that we treated the convention on a much more grandiose scale than we had heretofore intended. I suppose almost three eighths of the paper is on the convention counting the edit and the front page item. This was possible only through our possession of all the clippings you sent it. It was necessary because of the extremity to which the Coldwell leadership went to root out the Left and all traces of class concepts from the party's ranks-----necessary because of the widespread reaction that has developed in shock and in opposition to the Coldwell assault.

Believe me in many ways I hated to do it---to not take your articles as they were. As they were they were quite good but they pretty well covered the field. Your CCF article is an ideal general coverage article of the convention and if you only wanted to print one article would have been entirely satisfactory. However when we decided to ~~EXPOSE~~ really do a job on the convention we had to break it all down---the mood, atmosphere of the convention with the attacks on the Manifesto, The unions and the bureaucrats, Douglas and Sask, the debate on Korea and war, the tasks of the Left. I took bits and snatches from your article supplemented with added material from the papers. Did not like to use the material from the bourgeois press for fear of error however I noted from your article that the press is quite accurate. Hope I did not make any errors. I wrote them all as this way rather than having anyone else with a finger in the pie, helps to ensure little overlap...and you know we are pressed for space. Since you were a first hand observer be sure to let me know of any errors.

Had a box written up on the distribution incident---Reg sent me some local color but unfortunately we just could not squeeze it in. How did you like that little incident on the old worker getting up and calling for an Oliver Cromwell, down with talk talk talk. Probably I should have made that the lead of the convention report article. Stuff like that is dynamite for an article. Did you have a chance to talk to the fellow? This Shirley Davis seems to be an excellent type. Do we

know her....there was a picture of her in the CCF News...not bad looking either.

We are going to try to flood the CCF with this issue. We increase the press run and comrades are now in the midst of typing out names and addresses from various lists we have on hand. Hope you comrades can cover the CCF meetings. I had asked the bindery to fold half the papers inside out---page three facing out---so it would be better for distributing to CCF meetings. But I suppose they could be folded by hand without too much trouble. I am holding back another hundred over the two hundred we have sent you just in case you would have better use than mailing for them. If we dont have a call for them in the next week or so we will go ahead and mail them.

I see that the last issue of CCF News letter to the editor column is jammed with indignant letters from the Left...the whip of the counter-revolution(appears to be galvanizing the Left. This might be just what the doctor ordered to make the left consolidate its forces. Last Sunday night a meeting of 40 dissidents CCFers took place here in Toronto. Composed mostly of pacifist, ~~socialist~~ Christian socialist elements with only a scattering of CCF grade Marxists it nonetheless is a big development. The meeting struck off a provisional executive whose purpose is to start publication of a bulletin and to call another meeting within two weeks time. We had two comrade there, ran one of them for the executive but without success. But our main purpose was to get something consolidated and this was achieved. We think that the possibilities are very good- of course it is slow work at this stage.

Well what do you think of writing for the paper. This may sound slightly ludicrous in the face of ~~you~~ horrible fate your contributions have suffered. But the last two items are good---no bull about it. Henceforth I will write to you as the Vancouver correspondent if it is satisfactory with you and the branch. Havent any ideas for the next issue at this time. I expect, or should I say hope, that there will be some Left CCF developments well worth reporting by the time we get to the September issue

Drop me a line on the September 2nd week-end if its convenient that will give me time to write you right back to give you the go-ahead and you would be able to write the material up over the next week-end Spet 9, 10 and thus meet the deadline which would be ok if you mailed the copy on the night of the 10th or 11th at the latest.

comradely

Ross

August 18, 1950 ✓
87 King Street West, Room 5
Toronto 1, Ont.

Lucy McDonnell
47 East 22nd Ave.,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Comrade McDonnell

Enclosed you will find the postal money order receipt for the \$5 you forwarded us for the Militant. The money order cost .56 so that \$4.50 was sent on. Should should have a reply from N.Y. by the time that you receive this note.

The Cannon letter was certainly an excellent one---I see that it along with the radio speeches of our American comrades has roused a real response amongst American workers.

Very glad to hear that you were able to get down to the convention and distribute some copies of the paper. I suppose you read how Frank Mackenzie and the Coldwell gang called the hotel detectives on ~~maximum protection~~ the Vancouver comrades to prevent their distribution at the pre-convention mass meeting. I see that Trotskyism was a big issue at the convention. Yes the Right had their own way at the convention but it looks like they are whipping up a whirlwind now. The latest issue of the CCF B.C. paper came in this morning full of letters to the editor protesting the Convention decisions and the open attacks on the Manifesto by the tops.

Last Sunday here in Toronto a group of 40 assorted dissident CCFers met to lay plans for the setting up of a discussion bulletin. Regular meetings are going to be held. You know up until now there have been no concrete signs of any opposition to the Coldwell policy in Ontario. This is an auspicious beginning for which we can thank Coldwell. Needless to say we are more than just in close contact with this development.

warmest regards

Ross Dowson

August 21, 1950

To the Vancouver Branch:

Dear comrades:

For so some time now we have been both from within and without the CCF working towards the consolidation of the leftist tendencies that have been developing in that movement over the past two years. The whip of the Coldwell leadership brought into play at the recent National Convention of the CCF has apparently driven the left into action.

On August 13, a meeting of dissident CCFers in the Toronto area was held. It attracted about 40 persons of diverse tendencies who elected a provisional committee to arrange for a further meeting this month and to commence the publication of a newsletter to be circulated within the CCF. A couple of our party members were in attendance and we are on good terms and in close contact with several others prominent participants in the meeting. It appears to have been already established on a stable base with a left wing in the CCF in the Toronto area. It is already in contact with the left that has been developing in BC.

We have just learned that important developments of the same character have taken place in Vancouver. A meeting held at Boag House under the auspices of the CCYM with 20 to 30 persons in attendance has arranged to call a larger gathering of leftists this coming Friday Aug. 25. It appears from our information that the meeting will discuss two alternatives:

1— the presenting of a formal motion to the Provincial Council of the BC section of the CCF calling for formal disaffiliation of the entire BC-Yukon section from the national movement, upon the defeat of which a call for a convention to form a Canadian Socialist Party would be issued.

2— the setting up of an organized left wing with dues and internal bulletin, etc.

I believe that our party is of the unanimous opinion that it is excluded that the Left, particularly at its present stage of development, is sufficiently prepared, developed, or of such a character that it would join the ranks of the Fourth International. Our general policy is therefore for the consolidation of a left in which we could propagate our ideas and recruit to our ranks either through fraction work or a possible future entry. This appears to be the line of development in Toronto. However, as the above report on the proposals before the Vancouver meetings shows there is a move there to break away from the CCF and set up an independent movement. It is probable that this proposal would be defeated in favor of the idea of forming a left wing were it not for the fact that several prominent persons who favor the formation of a left wing are of the opinion that they will not be permitted to do so by the CCF top bureaucracy. The B.C. convention armed the Coldwell leadership with the power to intervene, over the heads of a provincial section and enforce disciplinary actions “where the interests of the national movement are involved.” It appears that an innocuous internal bulletin circulated by a Vancouver leftist is about to be suppressed by the B.C. provincial executive. One of the chief spokesmen of the left is of the opinion that “ the possibilities of maintaining an organized ‘left’ within the CCF thus

appears slim.” This person is one who will play an instrumental role in determining the course taken by the B.C. meeting.

It is in the light of this possibility that the CCF left may break away to form an independent movement that I write this letter. I write it without consultation with any of the N.C. members for as you know this would require at least a week before we could get first response via the mail, not to speak of reaching a common understanding. I write it as my opinion for discussion in the Vancouver branch immediately and for action if deemed necessary at once.

If the left adopts the policy of working within the CCF as a left wing this letter can be filed. If however the August 25th meeting decides to present its ultimatum to the B.C. Provincial executive – in other words on the following day issues a call for the formation of an independent socialist party. I am of the conviction that our party must immediately make every attempt to join forces with it to form a united party.

I believe this policy is advisable and justifiable in the light of the fact that we are a party in program only, not in numbers or influence. We have always visualized our movement’s growth as not of a process of slow one by one additions but as a process of amalgamations, unifications with split offs and breakaways from other radical working class tendencies that now exist and will develop in the course of class struggle. It will only be through organizational flexibility along with utmost loyalty to our political principles that the RWP will be able to lift itself upward and put flesh onto the few but sturdy bones that are its cadres.

Such a course in my opinion is advisable not in the belief that such an independent socialist party has any real perspective of growth. It is my belief that the CCF regardless of such a split away will be the mainstream of the political development of the Canadian working class. This limits the potentialities of such a movement as the above but at the same time insures that it would be a movement full of opportunities for us to raise, explain and demonstrate the correctness of the program of the Fourth International. If it comes about it does however have the perspective of channelizing the entire left wing that has been developing in the CCF for some two years, into its ranks, turning the CCF temporarily until the next wave of extended struggles, into a political desert for our movement. It would be false to see the left as being limited to such confirmed centrists and hardened anti-Trotskyists as the Eve Smiths and Rodney Youngs. The CCF has the support of the great majority of the rank and file CCF in B.C. At a rush pre-convention caucus there were in attendance two Saskatchewan delegates, a Manitoba delegate, and a member of the B.C. legislative assembly. It would possibly have the support of a member of the Federal parliament. What effect such an action would have on the developing Ontario left is difficult to say, but there is no question but that it would have considerable influence.

I do not believe that such an organizational maneuver has much danger for us. In the past four years of independent revolutionary activity we have matured and steeled our cadres. On the contrary it would be an excellent experience for our forces which are now so sadly lacking in opportunities to test and prove their mettle.

It is necessary to immediately renew our contact with the present leaders of the left to try to influence them to remain with the CCF. If we prove unable to do so or the CCF bureaucracy is able to pursue the highly doubtful course of driving them out and they raise the call for an independent party we must immediately get into negotiations with them. Because of past relations we have in my opinion good reason to believe that we will be able to meet with them to openly and honestly lay plans with them and unite our forces. Success in such arrangements would raise the whole question of our press, Labor Challenge and in fact may make it advisable, since such a movement would be most promising particularly in its first stage in B.C. to move our national office to the west coast.

It may be possible prior to this Friday night's meeting to ascertain through our contact with Young and Co. the probable course of the left. If it appears certain that the decision will be made to form an independent group it would be most desirable if we could appear on the spot to express our complete solidarity with this development and be in on the ground floor organizationally. We have much to offer this CCF left – we already have national contact with CCF leftists, an apparatus, political know-how that they will be in search for. In return we will be able to gain added political experience, reinforce the cadre of the Canadian section of the Fourth International, gain forces of such a number and calibre that we will be able to effectively enter into the class struggle in the future and really influence its course.

(signed)

Comradely, R. Dowson

September 5, 1950 ✓

Dear Reg;

Got the minutes from Dick and a letter from Ellaline re the branch attitude on the convention just after I had mailed the last letter off to the N.C. As you will note the proposal has Fitz's and Grenier's ok ~~XX~~ I am sure Angus a. provies so I guess we can go ahead

Got an excellent response to your distribution--see the enclosed letter from Courtenay. Barry answered it as I was off for a week's vacation. Haven't got a further reply as yet. I see that Courtenay is on the Island...would you drop the info in a line to Byron...he might be able to follow up.

Here is another address we might check up on

Mrs Isabel M. Johnson
2575 Venables St
Vancouver

It comes from the NY office...she wrote in following the Dobbs broadcast--"I enjoyed to hear the truth spoken. Would you kindly send me a few copies of this inspiring message." We have not written anything to this woman since you can easily contact her--it would probably only confuse her if we wrote and then you called...a call is better anyway. Good luck! Inidentally there was ~~XXXXXX~~ another one I thought that was reported in the Militant. I will check into it. ..it was in B.C. somewhere.

Well Ellaline tells me that you are going to send me a long letter on the Labor Day School, info that you have gathered from the CCF Left big-wigs etc so I am not going to say much more--besides I have to get to work on the paper at once.

And---I want something from you comrades. We could well use a short article on the developments in the CCF Left out there. I think we should carry some report of this excellent development don't you? But I think it has to be so written that it doesn't expose Charlie doesn't alienate Bray and other of our informants and friends in the Left. It need only be two or two and a half pages. We will tack onto it a carefully written report of the Left development here.

Did you have anything else in mind that you would like the paper to cover or that you would like to send in for this issue. The deadline is this coming Monday Sept 11th. We are planning an article on Woodworth, designed to show that he can't be the idol of the Left.

Get Dick to write it. I am sure you are too busy and it is the type of thing that he can well write up and send on after your ok. I raised the matter of him taking on literary tasks for the party in a recent letter. You know he is pretty good and with a little experience he can come a long way. He agreed to take on assignments. He said this; "As for writing articles for Labor Challenge, its ok with me. I think Reg should remain official correspondent and I work with him." Whatever that "official correspondent" may mean I think you should as you no doubt have been, encourage him to write but that you should check his stuff for line before it comes our way. I am sure that hellish factual error on the CCYM convention will not be repeated again. But as for line I would like to publish material just as it is received, otherwise it tends to develop a sensitive and touchy relationship...but to do that I want your ok when at all possible until Dick gets more experience and we have more with him. At any rate you being the most advanced comrade are in a much more advantageous position to give him assignments so that we get something at least every other month and often if possible.

and clippings

The papers that Dick sent in on the CCF convention were a real godsend for they allowed us to change all our plans on the convention coverage in the light of the developments. We mailed out about 500 copies to CCFers in B.C., names gathered out of the News last year financial drive. Too early to get returns yet but I think we should do well. Picked up two subs so far from the few we mailed out in Toronto. And yesterday by a streak of good fortune one of our CCYM fraction members was able to get us the entire CCYM Ontario mailing list....about 180---we just have enough of the August issue to handle it.

Despite all our interesting and very amusing details on the Vancouver hotel distribution I wasn't able to use it for the paper---got squeezed out when we were working on the stone. May be able to use it this issue---Glad to see that you are getting a friendly response from many CCFers---Jones got LC because we mail a copy to every MP. Dont expect to influence them of course but they may give us some publicity in a speech someday, at anyrate they get around and they will know what we really are in conversations they have and anything they write about the labor movement. So Nimsick was friendly.....does Rosslund have anything to say about him. I must ask him in my next letter. Havent sent Powley a free copy as you suggested for the following reason. We subscribe to the B.C. CCF News, I gather they did not want to make an exchange with us as the Sask and Alta papers do. In the face of this it would cheapen us

Well you did a really excellent job on Rosslund as did Seattle. As you know he is a very unstable fellow. ~~XXX~~ You and Ruth really cemented him to the party. So the two of you wont get swelled heads I wont repeat any part of his eulogy. He was very much impressed by the branch also. He wrote me pages about how he now knows the meaning of the word party and comrade. I gather some of the comrades were talking about the desirability of his pulling out of Trail and heading for the big city. Well I am convinced that sooner or later we will have to meet this problem. I dont think we can ask him to leave Trail, at least as long as the present possibilities for forming a branch exist through his strategic position widespread contact etc. If we had an able comrade who was willing I wouldn't hesitate to send him hot foot to work and live in Trail. Off hand I dont know of a comrade who is suited or available. My young brother is talking of going West but he is hardly the type. You might look the situation over in Vancouver for future reference.

Rosslund needs someone badly, someone to lean on. The CCF convention has written the CCF off the books as far as he is concerned, but still I find he has a contribution to the Olsen Materials for Thought. In a hot argument with MacDonald (an Stalinized contact of his) he blurted out that he is a member of the RWP, there were others there also- -this cant help but get around and finish him as far as the CCF is concerned, and yet he was a valuable contact for us through Smith, Young and coy. Oh Well, no tragedy. Of course dont say anything about this if you are coresponding with him unless he tells you.

What was the outcome at the August 15 IWA meeting. Are we delegates. If you are Reg you must come inot Toronto before going back. I will get the N.C. together. You could fly if necessary with our help and careful use of the expense account. How is our fraction in the IWA making out? It would seem to me that we have a real chance of doing something big on exWIUCers particularly when their leaders are not going to be on the inside. Are the top excluded leaders appealing to the international convention for reinstatement. What is the attitude of the general IWA membership towards the reinstatement of rank and file WIUCers and to the Pritchetts. My impression was that the WIUC never had naything of any account in the Vancouver area but was scattered up the Queen Charlottes. Is there much there for us to work on in 1921?

Thanks for the Baston article, hadnt seen it but had heard about his defection. Pretty miserable wind-up, particularly when our comrades appear to be doing so well with Outlook. but I see it was good for a ten spot---its an ill wind.

Any comment I might make on entry after your brilliant little ~~quix~~ quip about a

the posturers in the morgue of Coldwell and co Morticians and Emblamers, would be pretty ~~WHY~~ pale but one question I would like to ask you guys is---who in the hell are the rest of the seventy odd persons around Young and Cameron. But I guess we can best call it all off until I get that long promised document off on the CCF. The postponments are really embarrassing me but ^{it} seem of late to be just staggering from issue of the paper to correspondence to the next issue of the paper.

Well let's hear all the latest....how Labor Weekend School made out and so forth. Glad to see Alex made it. Dick tells me that you are in close contact and doing good work with Olsen and this Shirley girl

comradely

Ross

Vancouver

September 6, 1960

Dear Dick

(Chester)

You bowl me over on the CCYM anti-war resolution. It struck me as odd that a convention which oked such right wing changes of the constitution etc would almost pass such a statement; however some quite contradictory developments reveal themselves in such movements as the CCF and CCYM sometimes.

This is the first time that Labor Challenge has ever to my knowledge made such an error. We will have to make a crawling correction in the coming issue. Sad, but no tragedy. I'll bet you won't make any mistakes like that again, oh what.

Sorry about that Leisemer quote. I noted the way you had it but at the time I did not get it. Then the various press reports reproduced it three different ways. What does he mean the Trotsky line under Stalinist tactics? Here ~~Leisemer~~ life proves that the most illogical is correct coming from an illogical ~~Leisemer~~ CCF MPP.

Yes we will give more attention to criticism of the Left wing's ideas. But we did not want to do it in the last issue. After all the enemy was the Coldwell gang, who were out to break the Left and were giving it impetus to consolidate. We wanted that issue to be above all one of real exposure of the CCF leadership, to be the voice of the Left, to tell the truth about the convention which no other paper would do. Above all we wanted to help the Left to draw the full lessons and consolidate. Of course we had criticism--the front page war one but now we will start to open up again. I think we might review ~~the~~ the paper that they put out, Materials for Thought and the one that will be coming out in the East here. This issue we are going to do a little job on their idol J.C. Woodsworth. Later on we expect to do a job on the Regina Manifesto ~~which~~ we are holding this till the left consolidates to a greater degree---and it is consolidating around the Regina Manifesto.

Wrote a coup to have been able to get Olsen on our Labor Day meetings. Did he draw us many CCFers and CCYMers.

I have written Reg about the next issue. Probably he has already spoken to you about the little project I have in mind for this issue.....a report on the left development in the CCF....quite short and so written that it will not expose our comrades in their or alienate our friends there.

There was something I wanted but forgot to ask Reg. about. We are writing up a little column on the RWP in action. It will include a report of an excellent at our corner meeting we held here and a Trotsky memorial meeting.....we need something on Vancouver. What about your forums...the meeting you hold on Korea. What about the Labor Day forums. Could you give me a few lines on this.

Can you make it here by Monday night---it at means Sunday night mailing from Vancouver.

Yes we would prefer that Reg remain official correspondent if this means that you will work through him. In my opinion it would be advisable that any material you send in should be gone over and discussed with him. I never let anything go into the paper that I write without Barry going over it. It is really necessary to discuss material over with some other comrade. And as you know I like to put anything coming from outside point contributors as into the paper. I feel much better about this when I know that it is not just the viewpoint of one comrade but of two able comrades.

I received a copy of Olsen's Materials for Thought. Have we ever shown his Socialist Outlook. It would be excellent if he tried to get subs for it through his paper...the front page article on Korea by a British Labor M.P. is a natural for his paper.

Incidentally Røsslund does not have your correct address---you might drop it to him in a

September 22, 1950

Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Ruth;

Bullock

Sorry about the August receipt. I believe that I sent it to Ellaline along with some correspondence. I have gone through the basket and it is not there. Trying to get around writing another letter not of course that it is any great chore responding to your exuberant notes at all. I am sending along another receipt just in case Ellaline has misplaced it or I never did send it on to her.

Thanks for the bulletin. Rosslund sent us a copy that he received but he wants it back. I would like to show it to our comrades who are in the CCF left here. Would you continue to send me a copy as soon as the comrades have had a chance to go over it. I also need it badly for the paper..you ~~know~~ know so, that the paper is properly directed towards the left elements in the CCF.

Glad to see that you are coming along so well with the house. I am sure that the time that Reg and the comrades have put into it well worth while. I think we can suffer a little loosened connection through poorer correspondence in the light of the long term value of the investment. After all when I come West again I will want someplace to put my head. When are we going to ~~move~~ christen it or what ever they do to a house---house warm it.

Tell me when the time approaches. When I was "young" I took a great interest in art and amassed a terrific collection of color prints, reproductions of paintings, mostly moderns. Only too glad to see that the house is decorated up right by sending you a batch of prints to choose from. Nudes classic, nude nudes, Japanese prints, abstractions what you will

I am rather doubtful if the LPP will get anywhere with CCF dissidents. I gather they must have got their mitts onto a membership list in Vancouver. Boy what I wouldn't give to get hold of one. I was going to say I would give your two eye teeth but remembered you had a job done on them a month or so ago. Do you think we could make the first advances to that girl in the CCF office who contacted you. ~~XX~~ Do you think Roger might be convinced that it would be a good thing to give us the list of the Left. I suppose thought we will be in a position soon to get ~~XXXXXX~~ a Left list from our comrades who are going to work in the Left.

Even though the Stalinists have a stinking record on the CCF question nonetheless they may make some progress. Had intended to write up an article on the Stalinists Do They Play any Progressive Role in the Labor Movement At All, using their record on the CCF and political action by labor as the example.....or their trade union record. Will see if we can get it into the next issue. Also planning to do a job on the Woodsworth myth, and pacifism, its role. Big plans but no space.

Glad to see that we are going to get some of our comrades into the

CCF. By the way did Bray say anything about our "innipeg General Strike article and the letter I sent him along with the pamphlet I returned? He never replied to my letter.

I was all set to sit down for a while to give you a report on the Left here in Ontario, however I have a pile of letters to reply to and am beginning to get tied down with the financial drive. Many of the sympathizers who give us donations are known only to me and since we see them only once a year more or less expect to see me

Will write later

comradely

Ross "owson

October 2, 1950

Dear Reg;

Bullock

Just back from a distribution that fizzled. A railway contact we have told me the men went in at 3 but it appears that they go in at 4 and 4.30 so will do the job tomorrow. The few I handed out of the last issue with our railway coverage got quite a response from the boys. Enclosed is a note I have just sent to Dick...this is the reason for the note.

Incidentally Murray was in Toronto for his holidays and we had several discussions about party problems. He is arranging to attend the SWP convention which should be quite important for us...no doubt they will be discussing the problem of the effects of the recent police state bills on the party and what actions they must take. Will write later on all the details. Very busy just now as a considerable amount of the contact work for donations to the financial drive falls on me...I am the only one that can wring the money out of some of the old timers---takes up two or three nights a week for the next month.

Nonetheless will try to get to a typewriter at the first opportunity. I hope you agree with the way I handled the Joe Rose convention ~~HALIX~~ resolution in the announcement of the date change. As far as Toronto is concerned I feel we will not need to bother about his trade union contribution with all its factual and political errors--what about Van

(ends)

October 24, 1950 ✓

Alex LaFortune
1643 Haro Street
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Comrade Alex;

Meant to answer your letter some while back but it was unavoidably shewed back as I was able to answer its main intent...ship out the books.

the

I did not mail them to above name and address ~~XXXX~~ but to Ellaline for several reasons. One this was a new address and you mentioned no change. At the time of mailing I did not have your last name. You signed your letter Alex and your last name had slipped my memory. Since then I have glanced through our correspondence and note that in one letter you sign yourself La Fortune. I assume that this is not a party name.

Well I hope you received the books and pamphlets in good order. I took the liberty of sending you the copies of the Ceylon pamphlets as I was sure that the comrades would take up that many copies themselves. I was only able to send you five copies of the 1946 Fourth International manifesto on war...we are low on stock and we will have to obtain more from Pioneer. All of ~~XXXX~~ Trotsky's German pamphlets are out of print. We had a few copies of the edition of the one you ask for that was published by the British section but they went long ago. The Indian comrades were thinking of republishing them all in a book but their entry into the SP has apparently postponed the project. I hope someone in the branch has copies so that everyone can read them eventually.

So that is \$10.25 you owe the N.O. literature account.

Possibly you wonder why there is no discount to the branch. Unfortunately it is not possible to arrange one and sell the pamphlets at the price we do. It cost considerable to bring them into this country, so much that the 25% discount we get from Pioneer is eaten up completely. The books on our list over all are selling at cost, some at a loss and some at a slight profit. Customs charges 8 %, then 10% and ~~XXXX~~ this is worked out on the US price plus the exchange. Then when we come to make payment we have to pay the US price plus exchange.

I hope after the financial campaign is cleaned up that we can do a real job of encouraging all the comrades to build up a library and increase the general circulation of books and pamphlets in the Vancouver area. I have always felt that this is no field that our party has seriously fallen down. Of course I know it is difficult when one does not have a headquarters and a proper display rack.

I hope that you have some money on hand as I am enclosing some statements for books that are outstanding in Vancouver.

You were right about the Italic type...our printer doesn't have any. It would certainly be a big improvement in makeup. The one Ital he has is not very good (Cheltenham) But despite that deficiency I don't think we will be switching printers for a while. This shop is too cheap and too tolerant on credit for us to do that. Just in case you are familiar with Ludlow type faces all we have is Karnak, tempo, gothic, cheltenham and 18 point bodoni ital. We try to use them all except for Karnak which has a seraph on it and in my opinion is very poor. That tempo black is the best we have I believe.

Very glad to hear that the comrades like the paper. It is certainly the most important work that our party at its present stage of development does. We put a lot of time into its ~~XXX~~ preparation. We are always very anxious to hear criticisms and suggestions that will make it more effectively play the role that we have designed for it. Any time you have any ideas about articles let us know.

Re your comments on our East-West CCF/CCYM fractions exchanging ideas and information. A good idea. Why not write up material that you think would be of value to the party as a whole for the internal bulletin. I will bring the idea up to the next CCF CCYM fraction meeting that we are holding this coming Saturday morning.

Has Olsen heard from the Socialist Outlook yet. I wrote one of our comrades about a week or so ago along the lines that you suggest.

comradely

Along with this note I am enclosing a couple of ^{Ross Dowson} statements on outstanding book accounts. I believe they are all self explanatory ~~X?XXX?X?X?X?~~ story. Would you turn them over to Bill ~~XX~~ for his attention. We would appreciate it if something could be done ~~in hopes to be able to get onto the Internal Bulletin account~~ ^{shortly} to be able to get some cash on hand in the literary account.

Saturday morning
October 28, 1950

Dear Reg;

I am embarrassed about writing this note, about not keeping in closer contact with you in the past period. It must be the financial drive that is taking up that little extra time that enabled me to keep up the correspondence. Then of course you are not provoking me with any differences, and tantalizing information that probably squeezes that little extra bit out of this typewriter.

Well this is the editorial board meeting morning and so I would like to know what the situation is out there for some copy for this issue. "What is new with the CCF LEFT. What has happened to our friend Rodney Young's case? ~~XXX~~ If there is anything of importance in this arena of the class struggle we could put it to good use?

I see that your old pals in the shipyards are out on strike. Is there anything of importance for our monthly paper in this strike. Even if there isn't it might be worthwhile ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ to write up a front page short article so that we could more effectively introduce the paper into the yards via a distribution. What do you say

I see you neglected to tell me for the last issue whether we were to expect anything or not. I would appreciate it if you would drop me a line to let me know if anything is coming our way. It makes it much easier to handle the paper through the printer...and assures us that there is no unbalance in the papers coverage.

By the way we can always do with suggestions for feature material. Sometimes little items that comrades inform us of give us a good lead. For instance Ruth's note telling us that the Stalinists were sending letters out to the CCF Left and promising to call around to see them....the lead and the idea to write up that article in the last issue on the role of the LFP in relation to the CCF.

The deadline ~~XXI~~ for the November issue will be the sixth. This issue should be ok if you mail it that evening airmail, the copy that is.

Have a great deal to write you about. Will get down to it over the week-end.

comradely

Ross

November 1, 1940¹⁹⁵⁰ ✓

Victoria B.C.

Dear Comrade Dick (Chester)

Sorry to see that you have had to pull out of the Vancouver Branch. I am sure your withdrawal will seriously out into our work there. As you know I am a strong partisan of concentrations...its only through concentration of forces that anything can really be effectively achieved in the labor movement and the only way our own comrades can really develop, ,

Are you going to be there long? Is this permanent or just a short term shift?

Well as they say it is an ill wind that blows no good. If Vancouver is a better field, the Island is none the less a good one. We could have done with a dynamic and able comrade on the Island for sometime now. The paper has always done very well on the Island. Through sample mailings that we have made in the past we have picked up a considerable number of subs...it would seem to me a higher percentage per population than elsewhere in B.C. And from reading the CCF News columns my impression is that the CCF clubs on the Island are more leftist.

But the very first job that you could take on which would be a very valuable service for the party would be to call in on Byron Johnson. Do you know him? This question is purely rhetorical as I am inclined to believe you don't and at anyrate I would like to tell you about him anyway so that you can more effectively deal with him when you meet him. I do not believe that he has been in Vancouver ~~XXXXXX~~ since the Penticton convention.

First he lives only a short distance from Victoria at a place called Milnes Landing. I seem to recall that Milnes Landing is on the main highway going up the island from Victoria about 18 miles North. He has a homestead some distance back off the highway which you will not have any trouble finding as he is wellknown and respected in the district. You will enjoy going up to see him and could probably spend a pleasant week end in the process of the political work.

Byron was at one time in very close contact with the party---he used to write at least a letter a month into the N.O. up until about 1 1/2 years ago when he made that fatal step---matrimony. He used to send regularly a ten spot a month until he made that fatal step. Since then we have received about three short very apologeticall and moneyless letters. He used to be a top subgetter and carried on very effective work in the Sooke district CCF club where he had much prestige. Probably you know that the Vancouver leadership attempted to root him out of the CCF several times. While we never had any one other than himself in that district formally in the party I think to a considerable degree this was only due to a slight neglect on his part. My impression is that the Sooke CCF club is (if it still exists) a completely centrist club and a considerable group in there is politically Trotskyist, ready in a political sense for the party but not in it through the neglect of Byron to just make this final but of course very essential step with them.

Byron has been in and around the movement for a considerable time. If I recall correctly he is an engineer but was balked and has been working in the woods for some period now at one of the more skilled jobs. He is an educated and well-read comrade. While he has never expressed it clearly and obviously on any precise questions my own impression is that he has many centrist tendencies. Probably his failure to actually build a party group in Cooke and his contentment to go on working solely within the framework of the club could be considered a sign of this tendency. I seem to recall that he took a very soft attitude towards the Shachtmanites in the US for a considerable period and it is possible that he may still have it. But this is all incidental---not to be used against him, but merely to give you a little something to work on. He is a very fine comrade, has a great many contacts, he will be very pleased to see you, will treat you royally, will probably have some leads for you to work on in Victoria. Of course his wife may not appreciate your coming...I don't know how to explain his sudden and rather complete lapse of contact with us...unless it is his wife. I know they were planning on having a family. Incidentally he must be well over 50 anyway.

I have put you down on our bundle list for five copies. I note you mark up for 6 but did you have any particular reason for this odd (to us and our system) number? All our bundle list is in five tens and up.

Yes, I think you should send your dues and monthly pledge into the national office for are now properly a member at large. I will put your name down on the list for a copy of all internal party material.

Tell what are you doing with yourself...what kind of work will you be doing? Will you have much time to get around? As I noted above, probably Byron will have contacts for you in Victoria and perhaps the most favourable field for your energies will be in the Milnes Landing-Cooke area since Byron has already built up such a favourable field for you to work. Then again we have the names and addresses of many persons, most of them CCF leftists no doubt, up and down the length of the island who might be contacted. Of course I know that the Island is as big as lots of European countries and many of those contacts are far spread out. For instance I guess even we for all our enthusiasm will have to put ~~XXXX~~ Scintula (we just ~~XXXXXX~~ received two subs with a friendly note from there) out of your jurisdiction. But let me know what you think is possible for you and we can talk it all over.

At any rate right now it would be invaluable to arrange to go up and see Byron have some extensive talks with him, find out if he is prepared to do some work etc.

Thanks for the clipping. I guess we will let writing for L.C. drop for a while until you get settled down and can look the scene over eh.

Will write later.

comradely

Ross

November 20, 1950 ✓

Vancouver, B.C.
Dear Comrade Kurt

(Cont?)

Thanks very much for the money from your drive out there and the note of your very successful meeting with Steve Endicott;

Enclosed are the receipts for the two money orders that you sent in. How are we making out on the drive? Yours is the only word that I have heard. As you have no doubt read in the paper the campaign taken as a whole has been a great success. The only unknown is Vancouver so far. If we can come close to our objective out there it will be without doubt the most successful campaign we have held. As a matter of fact it is already quite a sterling achievement in view of the general atmosphere in the labor movement. The LPP and the CCF are really in the dumps as far as fund raising is concerned. But I guess the contrast is not so remarkable after all they are what they are and we are Trotskyists.

Have entered the subs that you sent in---giving Grubb for his 35 cents 8 copies of the paper

Received a note from Reg the other week telling me about the fine work we are doing in the CCYM. He says that Alex is really developing That is in my opinion one of the real values of working in the CCYM...it gives our comrades a real chance to develop and feel their oats. I gather that the atmosphere in the Collingwood East club must be very friendly to ~~XX~~ our work.

Here in the East the CCYM is in poor shape, composed of young old men They wouldn't touch such a scheme as a debate or a forum with the Stalinists with a ten foot pole unless in some way we were behind it using the opportunity as you did to show these CCYMers what Stalinism is all about and to demonstrate the power of Marxist analysis.

Glad you were able to attack the thing from both sides---you on the inside and Dick on the outside. Expect any day now after the shellacking you gave the Stalinists to read in the Tribune a finger article against the terrible Trotskyists in the poor CCF-CCYM. Did we represent the club in the debate or were we only able to do the job from the floor. I guess that's finis for the Stalinists in that experiment...dont know how the party will be better able to indoctrinate them...no matter how you cut it not matter how you slice it, it is still always baloney. Look what they have to work with.

Fellowship

Are the CCYMers active in the ~~XXXXX~~ group? I see that Olsen and Shirley Davis are, but are many others? The last report (October 1st) stated that a group has been formed in Victoria where Dick is and another would be probably formed in Nanaimo. We are looking forward to this development with great expectation. Now that we have a little fraction in the CCF-CCYM I guess we will be able to start to play a role in there. I know that it would be difficult for Charley to do much alone.

Drop us a line about your experiences whenever you get a chance. I've got a comrade here working on a report of our CCYM/CCF experiences that we will be sending out to you. Give us any leads you may think of for

material in the paper. We want to carry articles that answer the most important questions confronting the CCYM-CCFers that we come in contact with and of course to give our own comrades effective answers. We need your help to make the paper really do its job. How did you like the article on Woodsworth...and the article on force and violence? Let's know and let's hear what you want next.

with revolutionary greetings

Ross Dowson

November 21, 1950

Britannia Beach

Dear Bill; (white)

Well what has happened or been happening to you for the past while. It seems like we havant heard from you for 5 or 6 months.

I suppose you have been receiving all the internal bulletins, circular letters and the paper alright. What are you thinking these days and what are you doing with yourself. Very anxious to hear from you.

Have you been getting down to Vancouver? The comrades there have been doing a very good job the last few months in the CCYM and CCF. One of the comrades working in the CCYM wrote the other day about a job they and their club did on the Stalinists at a debate on the Peace Campaign. We carried out our attack from the inside and the outside. One of the other comrades distributed the paper with material on the Ban the Bom campaign and two others as CCYMers put over our line to the applause of the membership of their club on the inside. They are managing to take a steady stream of youth elements over to N. Vancouver to meet Ruth and Reg so that they can do a job on them.

The B.C. CCF Left has considerable promise also. At their last meeting they adopted the statement of purpose of the Socialist Fellowship and took that name on themselves. That is you will recall the name of the Left wing that our comrades in Britain have organized. The B.C. group has made contact with it and appears to be favorably impressed. Of course the Fellowship in Br takes our line so that should improve our relationship with the better elements in the B.C. CCF Left. Here in the east there is a left in the process of formation. As yet its best possible development would be as a discussion group where ideas could be freely discussed and where we would be able to put our fingers on the best that turn up. The CCF is terribly dead here in the clubs---no doubt you noticed that in the Welland by-election their vote was cut in half. But that appears to be merely the temperature if the labor movement generally at this time. We have comrades in this East group called the Ginger group but the opportunities are not near so favorable as in the west ~~where~~. Here there is a real fear of Trotskyism...some of our comrades making the most innocuous motions are baited on the floor.

Well while our fraction is doing what can be done in the CCF we are battling away as the open party. Last Sunday we held a public meeting on Yugoslavia here in Toronto. Got five new faces out but unfortunately no Yugoslavs. We did quite a job to try to get them out too. We put out a mimeographed leaflet and tacking it onto a copy of the paper distributed about 700 door to door in a Yugoslav district where we held the meeting. The pro-Tito Yugoslavs here appear to be doing absolutely nothing to popularize the inspiring developments in Yugoslavia---the workers council and destruction of privileges decrees.. We are going to try to approach some of the leaders we met last spring and who gave us the brush off at that time. Thinking also of contacting a few of the

trade union leaders in this area who are not unfriendly to us to see what can be done to implement the International Secretariat's appeal -- the one on fighting the famine that we published in the last issue.

By the way are there any Yugoslavs in Britannia. I know there are some in Vancouver and no doubt many of them go into the mines--one of the few skills or trades that they would have when they come over here. The Yugoslav government is putting out quite a bit of material these days...some of it quite good. If it would be of any use for you I could get you some...of course we wouldn't want to distribute their phoney material on the UN. ~~They~~ and the fight against war. They have certainly failed to come across in the field of international politics. In the next issue of LC we are planning to devote quite a bit of space to their struggle and to expose their false stand on Korea and the UN. But we could well distribute their other material. If you could just get names and addresses it would be a help...we would like to distribute the paper amongst as many as possible.

I suppose you have been following the financial drive. We have done fairly well and if Vancouver approaches its objective it will possibly be one of the most successful campaigns we have run. I was hoping that you could come to the aid of the paper. We need it, whatever you can do. On the whole the comrades have responded well, moral seems to be very high in spite of the red-baiting and the general lull in the labor movement. I am hoping as we wind it up that we can go well over the top so that we can pay up some of our big outstanding bills. I see the Stalinists and the CCF have been having a real tough time financially.

The LPP must be really rocking these days. You don't hear from them much down here these days aside from some confessions from their ex-leaders. Looks like the RCMP doesn't have to plant any more Esselweins in the LPP ranks these days---all they have to do is wait for some of the leaders to rat. In the last month Welch, former N.C. member. T.G. McManus, former PC member, and the secretary of their chemical workers' fraction have all spilled their guts. Aside from the fact that they are not putting up any real struggle against the red-baiting I can imagine that nothing could have a greater demoralizing effect on their membership than this ratting of their leadership. We should really start a hard hitting campaign to attempt to influence the Stalinist rank and file.... that is if we can find them---they appear to be just about underground.

What is new in Mine Mill these days. I see the Trail certification is on the way up again. It would appear that it is hard to say what will happen this time. Time has certainly played in the favor of Mine Mill and against Steel but Steel appears to be through by no means. I am enclosing an interesting report drawn up on the Port Colborne experience of Mine Mill. It would seem clear to me that Mine Mill was actually saved by the stupidity of the campaign that Steel put on. What is the score at Britannia.

I suppose you have seen the SWP vote...very good eh! New York was really inspiring although our friend Dan Roberts didn't do so hot only getting 327. A good experience---must be a lot of thinking going on now about the labor fakery Truman line.

Would you return the Mine Mill report just as soon as you manage to read it. I want to send it around to the N.C. members as soon as possible but I thought you should get it next after Trail.

with revolutionary greetings

November 24, 1950 ✓

Dear Reg;

Sorry to be so long in getting down to dropping you this line.

I suppose by now you have received read over and given some considerable thought to the two letters on the situation in the Toronto branch. Don't want you to think we are on our last legs by any means—as the financial drive proves. It is just that we can no longer afford to let the situation continue. We have lost several comrades through it all but I didn't and the majority of the comrades didn't see any alternative but to continue trying to curb the situation...but the cup overflows. It is obvious to everyone ~~including~~ years everyone that the situation can't go on.

Got a hurried note from Jean—just before he left for the SWP convention—in which he states that he and Fitz agree upon the proposal to strike off the Montreal N.C. members as a control commission for purposes of holding a hearing. He goes on to say that "we don't believe that we should have an American comrade on the committee/or having anything to do with the matter at this stage." He says that he will write more fully as soon as he gets back. Generally I am not in favor of having an American comrade in on this at all...I just put it forward to get opinions. I think it would be a needless and false concession to Rose's contemptuous attitude towards the Canadian party.

Now there is one thing that I would really like to know from you—I asked you last letter but you neglected to inform me—What was the reaction to the Rose bulletin? Rose's is burnt up that there has been no answer...the Toronto branch shrugged the whole thing off but I got a note from Rosslund that leads me to believe that it might be best not to ignore it but to do a job on its stupidities. Generally of course it just says what the pages of labor Challenge have been saying for five years about the nature of the trade union bureaucracy, red baiting and a dozen other things but mixed in it are such stupidities as the part where the trade union leadership's tarnished reputations were rescued by the 1946 strike wave...and that part where he says that the workers are champing at the bit anxious to battle but ~~for the fact that the trade union leadership stand in their way holding them back etc etc~~. What was the Vancouver reaction? Do you think that it would be worth someone's while to answer it...all very educationally of course. Be sure to let me know in your next letter as it should be done right away if it should be done.

Received a letter from Court. Gave me a very interesting report of their debate with the Stalinists on the Peace Program. Both he and Alex appear to proud of themselves. A good thing...that's one of the good aspects of our CCM-CCF work...it gives a chance to the younger comrades to feel their oats...to properly estimate their abilities and knowledge. Glad to see that we were able to hit the Stalinists from both the inside and the outside with Dick's help. He sent me a couple of shipments of money and told me that Bill ~~XXXXXX~~ or Lil would be handling it on in. How are we making out? Would you have them write me and tell me what the score is...whether ~~XXX~~ Vancouver needs an extension or what. I would certainly like to close the whole thing off by the time we go to press with the next issue—have all the money that Vancouver can send in. If Vancouver can raise the bulk of its objective we will go over the top this year. Toronto has made hers except for about 60 bucks that has been pledged and will be picked up this week-end. Elsewhere we did very well ~~XXX~~ also.

I am dead serious about that note on the minutes about wanting to hear what the comrades think of the paper in the last while. Give us both barrels.

Thanks for the data on the Civic employees and the shipyards. Didn't use anything on the shipyards as the coverage in the press has been poor and of course your comments were highly speculative

Do you have any contact with Byron---other than the chance meeting with Alex. I heard from Dick prior to receiving your note. I can appreciate it that his leaving for Victoria would be quite a blow however he can be useful there, and I mean really useful. My impression has been for sometime now that Byron has all the makings for a branch in his locality but just doesn't have the orientation or the needed umph to consolidate it. I have posed this whole question with Dick...after all he will only be 15-20 miles away for him to check into. We haven't heard from Byron for at least six months...and then the first time after a silence of 4 or 5 months. And as you recall he used to be one of the heavy financial supporters to the party---ten dollars a month as regularly as the tides. Haven't heard from Dick since the first note in which he asked for a bundle of papers. I would gather you all did a good job on him and he is ours wherever he goes---and probably it won't be long before he goes back to Vancouver.

Any moves in the IWA to get interim wage increases or has the problem of lay-offs bogged them down? I see we still have good relations with Lloyd. Rather pleased to hear from you on why he didn't go to the CCL convention---didn't want to get put on the spot during the red-baiting. You know a lot of good elements want and kept their traps shut and that Lloyd wouldn't go on those terms is good. I can fully appreciate militants shutting up in such an atmosphere as has been whipped up at those conventions by the Bengough's and Moshers. The opposition that did show itself at the CCL convention was truly a pleasure to read about. Incidentally the only opposition to the witch hunt in the TTC Toronto council came from us. As you know the council leadership informed all locals what delegates they would not accept---so far they have been careful to name only Stalinists. One of our comrades is a delegate along with a Stalinist for the Bookbinder's Union. The local unfortunately had to submit to the ruling that the Stalinist would not be seated at the Council but whereas all other locals even where the Stalinists are a power have quietly submitted and replaced the black balled delegate with a pure one the Bookbinders passed a motion attacking the ruling of the Council and refused to replace its delegate in protest with any other one. Our comrade is business agent of the local besides being the other delegate.. You might tell the comrades

Thanks for your letter that you sent to Rosslund. Very glad to read that it had not got out onto the branch floor...too humiliating, especially that letter of October the 8th...he sent me a copy. We have a real problem here---I don't mean me but Rosslund. A very enthusiastic comrade, dynamic, a real leader, a man with considerable talent, a mass worker and besides a person who has a serious theoretical interest. But his big problem is his tendency to be rather superficial in his analysis, to be impressionistic, to be hasty and jump to sweeping conclusions. In my opinion he is the most promising find we have made in several years but we haven't enough contact with him---and mail will never do it. I understand that he is expecting to go to Vancouver sometime around Christmas. I think we should spend considerable time trying to convince him that he has to pull out of Trail despite all its promise and all the work that he has done there and all his prestige which is obviously terrific. I would say we could make a compromise by sending someone to Trail but we just don't have anyone in sight who would fill the Bill..... for it would have to be a comrade of considerable maturity and skill....and all such persons we need at the N.O. I know that it is not easy to pull out of such a situation..besides he appears to have responsibilities at home but I think we must seriously probe him about the possibilities.

Rap your skull for what you say about me? I don't know why. In such a situation I don't see why you should not say what you think about my personality and how it affects party work. I know that I have certain personal weaknesses or characteristics and that they do affect party work....I don't think you tallied them up correctly in your letter. I plead not guilty to any of them. Generally speaking I think we have to be very careful about touching this field., it has great dangers. We just aren't going to find the revolutionist with the perfect personality or the personality that doesn't is some way find reflection in the party and party relationship.

But the Rose case is rather interesting in this sense. As the document on the bureaucratic tendency revealed the big difference he has here is not political in anyway---it just tries to mask itself with politics...its personal. What real political character it has flows from Rose's personal inability to submit his ego to the Bolshevik conception of the party, which in his mind means submission to Ross Dowson. He is a real anti-party element. But to get to the story. Murray conceded to Rose once that ~~XXXXXX~~ I had certain tendencies that Rose complained about,...on a personal plane. Murray conceded this to this extent --that why doesn't Rose instead of bitching all the time try to help your truly overcome these weaknesses. Rose took this to be sort of a gesture of alliance and agreement. When Murray was here a few months ago he showed me a winning letter he had received from Rose challenging him that he had conceded that I was so and so and he went on to enumerate what he thought was wrong and demanding why he Murray had done nothing about it(I suppose carried out his part of the deal Rose thought he had made) Of course Murray had given no support to Rose's campaign but what Rose thought he had given. Rose used Murray's remarks to justify his actions to himself and in fact they did more than that they gave his campaign great impetus. When he was here I tried to get Murray to go down to tell him off but Rose never opened his trap all the time Murray was here but pouted in various corners. Murray didn't go to see him---a mistake in my mind but Rose is a comrade I hate to talk to for you never know when you are going to hear something you said spouted out with the most fantastic distortion.

So to make a long story short. As long as Rosslund knows that every remark of mine was correct and based on his black and white letters to me I don't mind a little of the personal evaluation. And I know Rosslund feels that outburst of his very much ~~XXXXXX~~ despite the fact that I have done everything in my power to help him to forget it all. One thing the incident taught me was to be very very editto ditto careful of what he says in his letters, of his comments, of his evaluations..~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ For example in one letter he tells me that there is nothing to do in this discussion group that he is going to concentrate on his union work and is it ok. I no sooner get a letter off telling him that the Discussion Group is an important field and in my opinion he should work in it that I receive a note telling me about a terrific meeting of the discussion group that he had called a few days previously. He wrote me a long letter a few days ago asking me how and why did I ever keep up correspondence with him in view of what he has written me-- it was one year since he made contact with us on a serious plane. But nonetheless he is a real jewel, a veritable treasure. We must have better contact with him, that's all. I hope you can find time to drop him a line every once in a while. ..or any of the comrades for that matter, he is a great letter writer

But just before we leave the Ross Dowson personality question---I am seriously thinking of suggesting to the coming convention that someone else take over the post of national secretary... at least for a period. Don't think this is any pout or anything like it. I want to do whatever the party wants me to do. But there may be some real value in giving this responsibility over to someone else. At this stage of development of our party when the national secretary does play a really predominant role I think it would be good if we broke this four year stint of mine...that there was a change of personality. We have others who can do the job...besides it is a good chance for development. Just an idea that you can think over and we can seriously talk over at the convention. Of course we are expecting you to be in attendance whether they are shipping green and rough or not.

Glad to see, ~~XXXX~~ from another letter have just discovered of yours, that Bray has adopted a very friendly attitude towards us and to note his distrust of Young and Cameron. You will note from the long letter to the N.C. that I raise the matter again of the probing about to see if it would be possible, if we wanted, to get our leading comrades into the CCF. Have you been able to make any recent investigations. From here it would seem that things are a little more promising. I see from the minutes of the Fellowship that they discussed the problem of a "transitional" program, are worried about sectarianism, that they took over our British name etc. Thank Ruth for the minutes...they are very valuable in writing the paper. Have we got the November 10th minutes yet. And I wonder if you could get me a file of ~~XX~~ Olsen's paper. I have only received one issue. I would like to go over

whatever you can get me. At last I hope to polish off the CCF document. I expect to have three or four days the next week...that is if we dont have any cursed visitors etc.

I am enclosing a very interesting documnt on Yugoslavia. I wonder if after you read it you would rush it up to Angus.

I am also enclosing a receipt for Charlei for money that I received via Ruth. Thank her for the Bevan material for the Left jab- I know that I did not do it justice. After reading Ruth's letters I dont see why we down heare have the audacity to even attempt to write Left Jabs. We would gladly take her on the staff---even supply here with the bulk of the material to be worked over--propostion her will you.

Well I see from Allaline's minutes and letter that the branch is coming along very well, a new comrade coming up, successful work record in the CCM. etc.

Before I leave--is the Kirkpatrick ~~xxxx~~ in the civic employees dispute that former comrade of ours. I remember that he was a civic employee., and I seem to recall when I last talked to him much to my suprise he had risne to some heights in the Stalinist led local

comradely

Ross

November 24, 1950

Vancouver
Dear Ellaline

Just a few lines to let you know that we recieved your last letter.

I think I have pretty well talked myself out with Vancouver the last few days what with a long letter to Reg and one to Court.

Thanks for the minutes. Always glad to get them, to know just how we are making out there. And I see that things are going along ok...a new member, reports of comrades work in the CCYM-CCF etc. Incidentally I see we both hit the idea that Dick and Byron could hit it off well for the party. I have received a letter from Dick asking for a bundle of papers. ...and I wrote him all about Byron suggesting that they together could possibly build a branch in the Victoria area. All I am anxious to learn now is the state of the financial drive. But I suppose now that Bill and Lil are settled down we will be hearing about that.

I have taken note of your suggestion to change the bundle address (bulletin etc.) to Bill's new address. Will also add our new newsstand to the list. How are your newsstand sales incidently? The Toronto sales vary terrifically. Some issues of Labor Challenge we almost sell out completely on some stands and only a couple on others. It is much the same with the Fourth International. On two of the stands sales are a little more stable. These are stands that handle all the magazines and papers--~~EXTRAORDINARY~~ special stores of this type. The one big corner stand we are on which caters more to passersby has done very poorly lately...so much so that we are of the opinion down here that there is no purpose putting the paper on ordinary stands. But I would like to know your experience. At the two special stands we sell anywhere from 4 to 8 copies each issue.

Now that we have stopped using the Swedish Hall you will appreciate that we are without a contact address again. So I would like to raise once more the question of a box in the post office. I think that everyone agrees that we need to have a Vancouver address in the paper, particularly in view of the fact that we do considerable free distributing of the paper. I would gather that we dont want to use a comrade's house address. Would you take this up with the comrades again? Are box's still in short supply. As for money I think that it is a sum well spent. We could get the box in some local P.O., or some comrade that works near the main P.O. could look after the there so that we dont have to go out of our way to keep watch of it.

Would you let me know what classes you are planning...what material the branch is using for study purposes. The Toronto branch has just completed a series on the State--its origin and development right up to the question of the buffer countries. It was divided into two blocks with two different comrades giving it. One of the comrades has suggested that we drop the next class until after the Christmas holiday and in the meantime hold two or three what I suppose you would call round table discussions on the various documents that have been coming out in the past few months. Of course the branch has its internal educational at each branch meeting each week. We are trying to get a class into operation again in Windsor

Insee that you now hold the post of recording secretary...and Court is corresponding secretary. I am sending this note to you--is that correct for the future.

comradely

Ross Dowson

December 20, 1950

Dear Alex;

(La Fortune)

The only excuse for not writing you this letter sooner is that I figure you must realize that your copy arrived too late for the Mid-December issue of the paper.

I did not receive it until Thursday afternoon mail. The envelope was marked Tuesday 10 A.M. The dead line was Monday morning here. I might still have managed to get it in if it had arrived Tuesday morning but when it didn't I had to take up the space I had reserved for it with the book review of The Stalin Frame-Up system. When I received your copy the last few copies of the paper had gone through the press and were being delivered to the binder.

On the whole I think that the article is a good one and that we can well use it in the next issue of the paper.

It might be a trifle long for that type of article.... I ~~can~~ work it out to about 24 inches of copy which is about the same size as the article on the CCF leadership and CCL leadership on Yugoslavia appearing in the last issue. It would be good possibly if we could cut it about 10 lines. There is a portion in the article about that length which I think is not very well put and could well be dumped...page three, the paragraph about Webster on leadership and guidance.

It would seem to me that this paragraph gives credence to the conception that leadership and guidance are the same with its Webster reference. And of course they are quite different. It would seem to me that ~~the speakers who said that the term guidance was acceptable could be hardly said to have given ground....on the contrary they only affirmed their position. Acceptance of the Webster definition means to give ground. It is rather unfortunate that this question came up for these Stanley Park CCFers have to answer for their betrayals of the workers interests and fundamental principle of Marxism. The Trotskyists not have to answer or defend the principle of the vanguard party.~~

I am enclosing the article so you can go over it and then send it in again for the next issue. Possibly you were rushed in the last minute and would like to make a few changes anyway. The dead-line for the Mid January issue will be January 8th so could you have it back in here by then.

Incidentally would you ask Reg about those copies of Materials for Thought that he said he was going to send in. We haven't received them. Possibly you heard him talking about them. We are planning to do a job on this little journal for the coming issue...sort of a review of them. It would probably take up the sectarian character of the B.C. Left as reflected in their paper. We only have three different issues here and we really need them all to be so we do an accurate job. We have AUGUST, NOVEMBER, OCTOBER. and we need the review. Thanks

How did you like the last issue. We did a big distribution at the Endicott Place meeting here last Sunday night. The Stalinists were frothing at

the mouth. The issue was of course as if it was made specifically for such a meeting, for Stalinists and Stalinist hangers-on. They sent their boys out to stand by our comrades and shout out, this paper has nothing at all to do with the meeting going on inside. They were quite non-plussed when we told them to say it louder as we wanted everyone to be quite sure they understood that as much if not more than they. We did not try to sell the paper but seven people gave us the money for it anyway. The Stalinists did not dare to do anything for fear of alienating some of the old women ~~XXXXXX~~ and do-gooders who support the Peace Congress. Strange to say while the police have stopped us the last two times when we tried to distribute there this time there were n't any in sight

After the holiday season some of the comrades who have done their renewal lists are planning to take this issue ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ around to Yugoslavs trying to get subs. We plan to fold the paper so page three is on the outside and call on all the Yugoslavs we can. We figure that this issue and the next two should be very attractive to Cdn -Yugoslavs. There is an area in this city where the bulk of the Yugoslavs live. We are going through the voters list for Yugoslav names in that area and calling on these houses. Yugoslav names are easy to pick out because of their common endings. What do you think of the possibility of doing something along this line out there?

comradely

Ross

Dear Bill;

I am not sure of Alex's address and seeing that the submission was a joint effort I am sure you will want to see this note. By the way you will note that I took the liberty of sending the bundle of LC to your address, Is this alright? I thought it preferable as I gather you are in the downtown area and no doubt ye olde homestead is a bit of a hangout fo Alex and company.

December 25, 1950

Vancouver

Dear Reg; *Bullock*

Just a short note on the question of the control commission...and the enclosed letters.

Angus gave the ok sign on the control commission. Grenier and Fitz are all set. When in NY recently Grenier spoke about the matter to E.R. On the question of US intervention he was inclined to doubt its advisability at this stage. He also spoke to William F. Warde who said he would bring it up to the P.C. but I gather he was also inclined to doubt the advisability. As you know I thought it would be a good idea but ~~never have~~ some doubts that we should concede ~~anything~~ anything to the belief that Hemrade Rose would be tempered in his attitude to the commission and whatever its recommendation might be if there was a southerner ~~in~~ on it. After all comrades have to recognize the Canadian leadership which is by no means a collection of second rate punks. unable to handle a simple questions such as this. I have a certain resistance to the idea that the Cdn leadership shouldn't handle this thing for in a sense it would appear to me to sustain a belief that it isn't able, would be stepping out further than its ability should permit it etc.

Angus' attitude is; if one can ~~can~~ come up so much the better. Montreal is in favor of going ahead without and my attitude is the SWP now knows from Graneir, if they want ok, but let's go ahead.

Yesterday I received a letter from J, I am enclosing a copy for you.

An amazing letter, although I must temper that evaluation to the extent that nothing coming from there amazes me any more. All I can understand this to be is a non-subtle notice that the control commission findings will be completely unacceptable, they will be a product of an atmosphere of intimidation and witch-hunt, will not be a fair hearing....after all one of the two commissioners "revealed an entirely biased attitude involving the crudest distortions." Gives a little glimpse into how everything has been posed here for the last two years. The entire integrity of anyone and everyone is challenged then there is a woeful wailing when comrades react to this stuff about their failure to discuss some nebulous political questions that are supposedly at dispute.

What about Comrade Brent's case? An unprecedented situation flowing from an unprecedented situation. I of course neither approved or condemned. The incident arose from Joe saying he had no guts ~~XXXX~~ around a particularly vicious little incident. Barry who has kept a level head in the face of many other ~~XXXX~~ more outrageous provocations, flared up, demanded a retraction got none and went on to call Joe a snivelling rat who for two pins he would throw out the window...or something to that effect. Now of course he had put himself in a ridiculous position (fortunately I have always managed to keep my head, I don't know why) Barry felt that he had fallen right into Joe's trap and into an inextricable position. The letter ~~arr~~ he wrote to the branch arrived Thursday or Friday and I never heard from him till Sunday when he told

me he stayed away from the executive meeting because he was of the opinion I would try to convince him to withdraw it. I don't think I would have because after all it is better that we have a comrade absent from branch meetings than have a case of a fist fight on our hands. Do you want to leave the situation as it stands. Barry would take orders from the control commission to return to the branch and I am inclined to believe that it would be best left that way. What do you have to say on this.

So much for this little sordid bit of business in our lives. Certainly will be a lift off our shoulders down here to mark up some progress on this agonizing situation.

~~XX~~

Since I am here I might as well take up your last letter.

Received the item on the debate with Stanley Park. From Alex and Bill's report we did a very good job. Weaver is even worse than I thought he would or could be. I see our gang came in and rounded out Bill's work quite well. Yes I am quite sure that you are right that one objective in their porposing a debate with us was to clear themselves of the charge of Trotskyism...but it would seem to me that they achieved the opposite. The English comrades inform us that "we are now receiving many letters from people your way in the CCF." I gather they are in close touch with Olsen, who else I will have to find out. They might clear Weaver whom no one could seriously charge of Trotskyism but they infect the audience. Did you see Weaver's snotty little letter to the CCF News on the ad for the forum.

I am enclosing a copy of the first issue of Socialist Youth...the youth version of Socialist Outlook. The English comrades have airmailed it out here. They want to know how many copies we can use. We have only one comrade in the CCYM down here now and the movement is quite inactive. However we have the mailing list for all Ontario and I am thinking of ordering 50 copies of the first issue to mail out as sample and see what happens. Would you raise this matter with the CCYM comrades. It would be best that you handle your own order. ~~XX~~

Sent on your information on the civic employees to Rosslund

Rather suprised that you take up the Kirk case in the civic employees to suggest that I should pull in my horns in the discussion with Angus on the fishermen's union. Surely you don't think for a moment that my policy would put us into a Kirk position. Kirk really went off the deep-end. I never did know just where he stood as a revolutionist but for all his close contact with the men he should complete inability to estimate the mood of the rank and file...probably a victim of Stalinophobia. All I want Angus to do is not tail the situation and get forced out with the Stalinists if it is possible to do otherwise. All I want us to do in PR in reality is to be sensitive to the general situation that is unfavorable for the Stalinists and any Stalinist expellee and not be caught out on a limb...be prepared to play a dynamic role in the situation. Haven't heard further from him on this nor have Grenier and Fitz had anything to say.

Thanks for the info on the branch reaction to the last internal bulletin. I thought that this would possibly be it. We had the same here. Grenier is going to write an answer...I am expecting it here any minute.

Glad the comrades like the paper. Yes that problem of length of articles is a tough one. I guess after looking over the last issue you wondered if I

even received your comment about long articles....that IS letter and the long magazine article on Yugoslavia. Hadn't budgeted for the IS document when drawing up the last issue...and of course when we received the letter we had to carry it, very important and since the Militant cannot carry official documents ~~we~~ are all the more expected to do so. Gave Alex and Bill the needle with a certain amount of delight after your comments...their item was over 5 pages. Will earnestly continue to try to meet this problem of long articles. I was particularly interested in getting your opinion of the last 5 or 6 months issues as we have been getting a lot of favorable comments from comrades and I can't think why--how the paper has changed in any substantial degree. Of course we have been carrying more analytical material lately...the paper is a little heavier

What did Bill White have to say for himself. Haven't had a word from him for God knows when. I have sent him a few letters and a couple of them were such as would almost demand that he reply...for instance I sent him an extremely interesting report written up by a Stalinist Mine Mill leader of the lessons of the struggle they had with Steel at Port Colborne...and asked him to send it back to me right away as I want it to go the rounds of the N.C. But not a word. Wish that Britannia Mine would get worked out so we could rank him into Vancouver. Haven't heard from the Victoria - Milens Landing comrades either. Things are going great guns at Rosslund's....we have managed to set up the TLC-AFL Council and hold the provisional president's seat. We did very well with getting militants on the ~~KIX~~ civic employees executive in the recent elections. Have very seriously posed the question of Rosslund ~~and~~ pulling up stakes and getting into Vancouver and he shows considerable appreciation of the problem. But he suggests that we should scour the party to see if it is not possible to send someone in to give him a hand. He ~~needs~~ needs of course a real politico type but he suggests Dick. I suppose there is not the slightest chance if he is going to school therein Victoria. ~~Together that~~ the job situation is good in Trail. What do you think the score is on that idea...do you think a new field would attract Dick. Rosslund has considerable prestige and it would be well if we could try and reap some ~~XXXXXX~~ thing from his labors before making such a definitive move as withdrawing him. He would certainly be a big aid to you in the Vancouver branch

Several more important things I want to take up but will try to get a letter out to the N.C. in the next few days. By the way still looking for the Materials for Thought you promised.

Hope you have a job so that the mortgages and leins on Falsvrik Manor don't wipe out the principle.

comradely

Ross

December 28, 1950

Vancouver

Dear Court;

Received the last payment but one on the financial drive and am enclosing the receipts for your records. Well, we did a good job. I was hoping that our special 200 dollar contribution would turn out to be gravy, that we could reach the objective without counting it in. We are closing the books now with \$60 over the objective...a very good go. will put out a letter next week. Now if we can keep our sustaining jacked up we will have some room to maneuver. I wonder if in your next letter you would enclose a slight report on the drive, how much we got from outside sources, old contributors and new ones, etc.

Glad to hear that the branch has decided to commence its classes again. Are they going to be at the Swedish Hall, and what is to be the general topic. We could put our ad in the next issue of the paper if you can get the info here in time.

At its last meeting the Toronto branch decided to hold a forum at least once a month and when occasion made it advisable more often. At the same time it is going to hold a series of classes. The first one on the Soviet Union will be spread over three sessions, the first session will deal with the Soviet Union the extent and the why of its degeneration, the second The Theory of the Degenerated Workers State, the third, The Theory of Bureaucratic collectivism and State Capitalism. A comrade is going to present the topic for half an hour then there will be broad discussion. I gather from the comrades that this class is the type that they would prefer to hold this year...more topical, more limited, not involving such a sustained series. Since comrades in our CCF fraction are going to give two of the three classes the class will be a closed one. We don't think that this is too great a loss since we will have our at least one a month forums. The first forum in the latter part of this month will be on China.

Thanks for the sketch of the debate rinningling. Bill and Alex have sent in a report for the paper which we will use for the next issue. We are also planning to extend the very essence of your comments on Weaver's sectarianism in the next issue with a review of the first five issue of the Fellowship's paper Materials for Thought. This should be valuable to hand out to Fellowship members

is more of a long term job...that it wont be completed in a matter of months etc as you suggest. For this type of work it would be essential to get inot the movement, be accepted as a member.

Just a few thoughts on the question. Possibly you might like to discuss them over in the executive.

You will be glad to know that the recent plenum of the International decided to write an extensive reply to the Johnsonite, Weaver-held theory of Russian State Capitalism. It should be available ~~XXX~~ shortly.

comradely

Ross

I wonder if you would do me the favor of reminding Alex that the report of the Weaver-Whitney debate has to be here in our mail box next Monday morning, January 8th. That would go for the ad in the class if the details have been decided upon.